Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support debt forgiveness for CNMI scholars who fail to pay back the money awarded them for their college education?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 21, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

LP Tandem

Sen. Mar Roxas has formally agreed to be the running mate of Sen. Noynoy Aquino III in next year's presidential election.

ASIA...Page 15

Emmy Winners

"Mad Men" and "30 Rock" led a pack of Emmy winners who successfully defended their titles at Sunday's show.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

DPS releases identity of dead pregnant woman. **PAGE 3**
Dangerous waves shut down CNMI beaches. **PAGE 5**

Weekend poker robbers strike thrice

Security guard hurt; 6th robbery cases in 3 weeks

PINWHEELS FOR PEACE
Jefferson Mateo, 11, a sixth grader at William S. Reyes Elementary School, reads the messages of peace on paper pinwheels planted by over 700 students and teachers on the school grounds yesterday as part of the international art and literacy project called "Pinwheels for Peace." Inset, Brilliant Star School teacher Elisabeth Swain, third from left standing, and nine upper elementary students show the 5-ft. tall peace pole and peace flags they made to mark yesterday's 10th annual United Nations International Peace Day. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

RELATED NEWS
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By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The poker robbers are back, and they are becoming bolder.

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Asiana to bring in 11 charters in 2 months

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Asiana Airlines will bring in a total of 11 charter flights from Japan to the Commonwealth in two months and the move is expected to boost the tourist arrivals

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CNMI's Inos to join teleconference with Biden on ARRA

- CNMI spending still at 1 percent
- Administration cites accountability

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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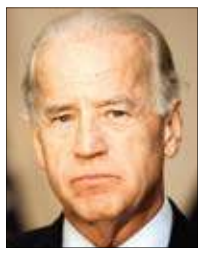
REPORTER


Biden

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos will join the governors of all U.S. states and territories in an early Friday morning teleconference

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CHC sued for death during tonsils' removal

Legislature holds oversight hearing on health issues today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center has been sued once again over an alleged wrongful death, this time involving an 18-year-old girl who went into cardiac arrest while undergoing tonsils removal in March this year.

Medical malpractice is among the issues involving CHC or the Department of Public Health that is expected to be brought up in today's joint oversight hear-

See CHC on Page 4

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Local

'Limit poker hours to deter armed robberies, homicides'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan) will formally introduce today a bill seeking to limit the operation of poker establishments in the CNMI from 8am to 2am to help prevent armed robberies and homicides in gaming rooms.

In an interview yesterday, Salas said there are at least two homicide cases that involved the robbery of poker game rooms in recent years, and at least 15 armed robberies and assault in the last three years.

These still do not include the three armed robberies during the weekend that the Department of Public Safety reported yesterday: at Viva II Poker in Chalan Kanoa on early Friday morning; at New Star Poker in San Jose on Saturday afternoon; amd at U Luck Poker in San Jose on Sunday morning.

Many of the poker robbers in the CNMI are armed with machetes, baseball bats and other pointed objects, while others have guns.

Salas, who pre-filed House Bill 16-276 on Friday, said armed robberies of poker game rooms appear to be more frequent during the early morning hours after most business establishments have closed their doors of operation.

Poker establishments in the CNMI can operate 24 hours a day.

"Armed robberies are a major threat to the health and welfare of the employees and patrons of poker establishments, and short of closing poker establishments, one constructive way to alleviate the vulnerability and potentially harmful risks to employees and patrons would be to regulate the hours of operation of poker establishments," he said.

His two-page bill seeks to limit the hours of operation from 8am to 2am.

Operators of poker establishments have yet to see a copy of H.B. 16-276.

Jim Gebhard, general manager of Pacific Amusement, when asked for comment yesterday, said one of the major reasons why many poker establishments operate 24 hours a day is to recoup the costly $12,000 license fee for each poker machine.

"The fees are high. But I would like to see a copy of the bill first, and I'd look at how much we'd lose if we do that," said Gebhard.

Pacific Amusement operates 52 machines, including those at High Roller I in Garapan and High Roller III in Koblerville. The company also operates Bobby's Café along Middle Road.

He said if Pacific Amusement will have to limit its operations as the bill requires, then 10 or 12 employees may lose their jobs.

Principals: Student learning not dependent on passing Praxis

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

School principals are one in saying that passing the Praxis test or not has no significant effect on how teachers teach their students.

Hopwood Junior High School principal Christine Masga and Dandan Elementary principal Jonas Barcinas, who spoke on behalf of all public school principals, said yesterday that the rigorous tests are just one of the many requirements set by PSS for a teacher to be deemed highly qualified.

"Our data is improving…and we don't believe it's affecting or discouraging our students to be taught by teachers who have yet to pass the Praxis [tests]," Masga said at a news briefing.

She said there is "only minimal correlation" between the Praxis-compliant teacher and the methodology she uses in a classroom setting.

The Board of Education has set three requirements for a teacher to become HQT: a degree, valid certifications, and passing the Praxis tests.

Latest PSS records show that, of the more than 500 classroom teachers in 20 public schools, 67 percent are highly qualified while the rest are either in the process of completing their certification requirements or have yet to take the tests.

Masga said some teachers find it difficult to pass the Praxis

See PRINCIPALS on Page 4

Beautify CNMI searches for slogan

Beautify CNMI is looking for a new slogan following the successful "What we do on the land can affect our marine environment" campaign started in 2006.

In order to find a new slogan, Beautify CNMI is looking to the community for help. Artists are being asked to come up with a slogan and to design a bumper sticker that goes along with their slogan.

The winner will receive $150 cash and 50 of their winning bumper stickers to give out to friends and family. The contest is open to all residents of all ages of the Commonwealth.

Guidelines for the slogan contest are:

- must be original
- must be relevant to the actions and mission of Beautify CNMI.
- The bumper sticker can be square or horizontally rectangular.
- Artists and participants can submit more than one design and more than one artist can work together on a single submission.
- Designs may be by freehand sketch, drawing or computer generated, but must be in electronic format to be considered.
- Entries must be submitted by noon on Oct. 24, 2009, and must include the artist's full name, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address if available.

A brief statement explaining the design and slogan may accompany entries.

All entries will become the property of Beautify CNMI and can be used freely by Beautify CNMI.

Entries are to be submitted via e-mail to angelovillagomez@gmail.com. For inquiries contact Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462. ***(PR)***

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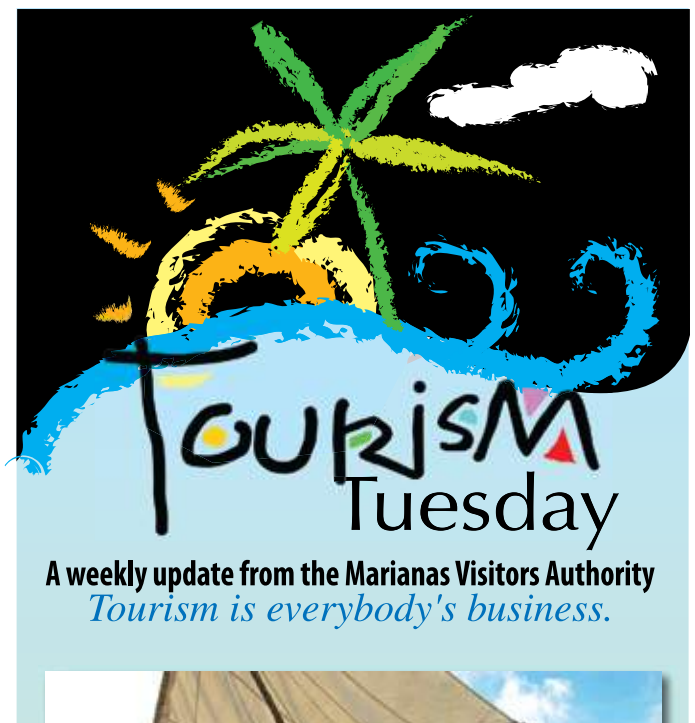

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Share your island pride with visitors the "Hafa Adai Tirow Way"!

Share your island pride by wearing island print shirts or dresses, *mwar*, or other islandwear on Fridays…or any day!

These lovely Carolinian ladies are adorned in *téér* (wraparound skirts), *mwar* (head leis), and *lighitútúr* (bead necklaces).

Become a fan and share your best shots on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Islandwear of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Live the Hafa Adai Tirow Way!

Answer to last week's Tourism Tuesday Trivia:

In fiscal year 2008, Japanese visitors made up about 50% of total visitors to the Northern Marianas.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

DPS releases identity of dead pregnant woman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety released yesterday the identity of the pregnant woman who was found dead in a hotel room in Susupe on Sept. 11.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said the victim's name is Alicia Daniel Tenorio, 39, who was born in Alameda, California.

Tarkong said the victim's father, Daniel Charles Tenorio, who is residing in Alameda, has been notified about her death.

Tarkong said that Detective Simon Manacop had learned that the victim had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and that she had this condition for 10 years already.

Sources said that a few weeks prior to her death, the victim was seen at the Superior Court asking for the birth certificate of her as yet unborn baby.

Tarkong said that Dr. Aurelio Espinola conducted an autopsy on the 39-year-old victim at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue on Friday.

"The cause of death has not officially been given pending microscopic tests, which will be conducted in Hawaii," Tarkong said.

He said information on the cause of death should be available within two weeks.

Investigators ruled out foul play behind the victim's death.

On Sept. 11 at 11:05am, police responded to Saipan World Resort after receiving a call about a dead person.

Upon arrival, a police officer met with the hotel staff and learned that a woman with no pulse and not breathing was found in one of the rooms.

Preliminary investigation showed that the victim checked in at the hotel on Thursday, Sept. 10, around 11am.

Hotel staff noticed a massive swelling in the woman's legs as she walked through the lobby. The hotel employees offered to call an ambulance for her so she could get medical treatment, but she refused their help.

The next day, Friday, at 11am, concerned about the victim's condition, the hotel management had somebody knock on her door several times. When there was no response, they opened the door to check in on her.

The management found the victim in the bathroom with no pulse and not breathing. The staff then contacted the police.

PSS students post high participation in SBA, SAT-10 tests

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Results of the Standard Based Assessment test conducted by the Public School System last school year show increasing student participation in the assessment tests.

In a presentation by Associate Commissioner for Instruction and Curriculum Jackie Quitugua yesterday, she said that students' overall participation rate in the SAT-10 test is 96 percent while for SBA, it is at 93 percent.

Quitugua said the reading assessment was done among students in grades 3 through 8, while the writing assessment was conducted among fifth graders, seventh, and 11th graders.

Third to eighth graders participated in the math assessment; grades 4, 8, and 12 were assessed in science; and grades 3, 6, 8, 12, for social studies.

Quitugua said PSS aims a 95 percent participation rate in the SBA tests annually and hopes to increase graduation rate by 5 percent every year. *Saipan Tribune* learned that PSS overall graduation rate at present is over 70 percent.

PSS data showed third and sixth graders had the highest participation rate of 98 percent for SAT-10 while fifth graders posted 97 percent. Grades 8, 9, and 11 all recorded a 94-percent participation rate in the SAT-10.

In the SBA results, sixth graders got the highest participation rate at 97 percent; third, fourth, fifth graders got 96 percent; grade 7 and 10 had 94 percent; grade 8 and 11th, 93 percent.

Senior students, or grade 12th, got the lowest participation rate in the SBA at just 82 percent.

Areas of concern

Despite the significant growth posted by schools in both assessment tests, Quitugua disclosed that math and reading remain the areas of concern that need to be addressed by the school system.

She revealed that students, based on the results, have some difficulties in math tests.

The yearly progress on the SBA test among fourth graders show actual performance of 49 percent, way below the PSS target of 60 percent; fifth graders performed last school year at 39 percent in math; sixth graders, 39 percent; grade 7th, 39 percent; and eighth graders, 30 percent.

Saipan Tribune learned that in the reading assessment test, third graders performed at 40 percent, way below the PSS target of 80 percent; fourth graders were at 47 percent; fifth graders, 55 percent; sixth grade, 43 percent; seventh graders, 45 percent; and eighth graders, 51 percent.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and Quitugua said that, using the SBA and SAT-10 assessment results, PSS can effectively identify the strongest and weakest points of students and identify the best solutions to address the concern of both teachers and students.

They said the various institutes and trainings PSS is conducting aim to assist and better equip teachers with the best teaching tools and methodologies. They emphasized the importance of having lesson plans on hand and the researches and studies available in the Pacific and other regions could help the system better perform in these areas.

"Through these assessments, we can really follow the students' progress and close the gaps," Quitugua said, adding that they are asking teachers to also perform benchmark tracking of their students, adopt teacher mentoring program, and encourage greater participation from parents.

Quitugua said that 15 of the 20 public schools are using the mentoring program at present.

'Students' First' mission'

Sablan said yesterday that PSS performs these assessments not only to comply with federal requirements but to also fulfill the mandate of the Board of Education, which is "Students First."

Sablan cited three types of assessment under the students' accountability plan: self-assessment, classroom assessment, and statewide assessment.

She said AYP, adequate yearly progress, is an academic achievement accountability measure.

"As its AYP goal, PSS aims that 50 percent of students tested on SAT 10 will be at the 50th percentile by 2010 using the complete battery, and that all students will meet or exceed challenging performance standards by 2014," she said, adding that attendance and graduation rates are among the other indicators in the assessment.

Saipan Tribune learned that the SAT-10 AYP percentile rank scores increased from 31 percent to 41 percentile in school year 2007-2008 while the SBA score was at or above the standards across all content at 38 percent.

Proficiency rate

Based on the latest SBA proficiency results, third graders got an overall rate of 57 percent for math; grade 4 at 49 percent; grade 5 at 39 percent; grade 6 at 39 percent; and grade 7 at 39 percent.

Eighth graders posted an overall 30 percent proficiency rate for math last school year.

According to school principals Jonas Barcinas and Christine Masga, the results of both tests were provided to teachers and parents.

"We looked at the data…and plan to get better results," Barcinas said, adding that Dandan Elementary School constantly show significant progress in both SAT-10 and SBA tests.

Masga, for her part, said that Hopwood is also taking advantage of the technology available in the school where she enforces cross-subject integration in line with the mission of PSS for student learning.

Both emphasized the important role played by parents in keeping the students' progress in school.

CNMI'S

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with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden to ensure compliance with the purpose of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

As of yesterday's posting on the federal tracking system, www.recovery.gov, the CNMI has so far spent only 1 percent or $341,000 of the $32.935 million in federal stimulus money that has already been made available to it.

The CNMI's spending increased by $9,000, from $332,000 on Sept. 17.

Four other U.S. territories have spent between 9 percent and 57 percent of their ARRA funds.

The CNMI has so far received $53.046 million in total award notification under ARRA. Of this, $32.935 million is now available for the CNMI to spend.

In a statement yesterday afternoon, acting Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said accountability is "important in moving forward with ARRA funding."

"Individuals are quick to make judgments without taking into account the full picture of the developmental phase of any program. Checking the website recovery.gov disbursement of funds does not reflect the entire process leading up to this final step," he said.

Igisomar said: "Accountability and performance measures that outline expected outcomes put in place by the Department of Commerce are consistent with the intent and requirements of the Recovery Act."

"Continued attention to accountability issues is essential and paramount to the success of the program," he added.

'Moving on'

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the CNMI government is "moving on" with the federal stimulus funding program.

"We are working with agencies, local and federal, to comply with the federal law. We need the cooperation of relevant agencies and officials," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune.*

Among the entities the administration wants to work with on ARRA funding are the Public School System and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), who earlier said the CNMI is "off to a slow start" when it comes to spending federal stimulus money.

Reyes also said documentation and other requirements on certain energy grants are needed from relevant agencies such as PSS.

The teleconference between Biden and the governors will be around 2am Friday Saipan time.

"[The purpose of the teleconference is] to make sure all states and territories are in compliance and on track with ARRA funds for intended purposes—job creation, economic growth, for instance," Reyes added.

'Proper measurement'

Igisomar said the Department of Commerce, through the leadership of Secretary Michael J. Ada, has systemically put in place quantifiable and reliable measures to fully evaluate the overall success of projects funded under this source of revenue, and monitors information that needs to be reported, it said.

"Because of the significance of funds provided and their importance to strengthening the CNMI economy, the Department of Commerce has taken steps to ensure that ARRA funds are appropriately tracked and transparent to the public, and the expenditures can be properly measured and reported clearly, accurately, and in a timely manner," he added.

The acting Commerce secretary said the CNMI Financial Management System is used and will show numbers different to that posted on www.recovery.gov due to a couple of items inclusive of lag time and processing.

He said while recovery.gov shows a higher award amount than what the CNMI actually received, there is a time lag from when the federal agency awards the money to the time it reaches the CNMI's Financial Management System account.

"On the expenditure side, CNMI ARRA records indicate a higher amount than what is reported on recovery.gov, because of reporting lags. The federal reporting also doesn't include obligations where our financial management system does. Many of the projects in which the CNMI was awarded money for have been obligated, but the actual expenditures have not occurred," Igisomar said.

He also said that CNMI expenditures, obligations and drawdowns of ARRA funding precede any final reporting on recovery.gov.

Igisomar cited what he described as an "outstanding job" by Edith DeLeon Guerrero with the Workforce Investment Agency Summer Youth Program.

The program provided on-the-job training to CNMI youth in summer to enhance their work skills in a paid employment setting.

"The expenditures for this program created employment opportunities for 838 youth in the public and private sectors. This has yet to be reported on recovery.gov because of the obligated and expended funds. The report is not due until October 10th, with reporting released on October 30th. At that point in time the information will be placed on the recovery.gov website," he added.

Ahead of NMI

As of yesterday's posting on recovery.gov, Guam has already spent over $16.5 million or 17 percent of the $93.105 million in ARRA money made available to it.

Puerto Rico has so far spent over $707.3 million or 25 percent of $2.764 billion; U.S. Virgin Islands, $13.6 million or 15 percent of $87.87 million; and American Samoa, over $3.9 million or 9 percent of $40.3 million.

Three other Pacific island nations spent much more than the CNMI: the Federated States of Micronesia has spent $1.85 million of the $4.7 million made available to it; the Marshall Islands has paid out $1.6 million of $2.7 million; and Palau spent $936,000 of over $2 million made available to it.

PRINCIPALS

From Page 2

exams because they are either new at their job or it has been more than 10 years since they went to college.

However, Masga is optimistic that all teachers will soon meet the standards, which is also mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Under the NCLB Act of 2001, school districts are required to employ highly qualified personnel beginning 2011.

Barcinas explained that many teachers—although non-Praxis compliant—have proven themselves effective in delivering quality education to students.

CHC

From Page 1

ing by the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

The first hearing will be held at 10am in the House chamber on Capital Hill, while the second one will be at 6pm in the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria.

Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) released yesterday the results of the opinion survey the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare conducted at CHC, in time for today's hearings.

Mismanagement, doctor shortage, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems at CHC were among the issues identified in the survey.

'Safe procedure'

Carmen T. Cabrera, through lawyer Michael Dotts of the law firm O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, sued CHC over the wrongful death of her daughter, Verena T. Cabrera, who was 18 years old in March.

Also named in the suit were DPH, Dr. Florian Braig, Dr. Michael Koning, and nine other unnamed defendants.

The complaint, filed on Sept. 16 in the CNMI Superior Court, stated that Verena Cabrera suffered from frequent sore throats. It was recommended that she undergo tonsillectomy, a simple and safe procedure to remove her tonsils that might lessen the frequency of her sore throats.

Verena Cabrera, according to the complaint, went to CHC on March 10, 2009, for the operation. The complaint said she had previously met with Braig, who had "assured her that the procedure was very minor, that she would spend the night in the hospital to be observed, and eat ice cream."

"Verena consented to this simple and safe procedure," said the complaint.

Koning, who is another doctor at CHC, sedated Verena Cabrera, while Braig performed the tonsillectomy.

"Then, on the operating table, Verena went into cardiac arrest. Verena's life was prolonged through artificial means until the early morning hours of March 11, 2009. On about March 11, 2009, Verena died," the complaint said.

Sufficient care

The complaint said the defendants did not provide Verena Cabrera sufficient and proper information about the dangers of the procedure to obtain her informed consent to the procedure.

It said the defendants failed to properly secure an airway for the patient to breath during operation, failed to properly monitor and/or administer sedation, an overdose of epinephrine, and/or by inappropriate administering of Midazolam.

"Verena's death that occurred as a result of her having a tonsillectomy would not have occurred and does not ordinarily occur, in the absence of negligence," the complaint said.

The plaintiff asked the court to grant damages in an amount to be proven at trial for Verena Cabrera's wrongful death, pre-judgment interest on damages, costs, attorney's fees, and other relief the court may deem just and proper.

This is the second time in two weeks that CHC has been sued.

On Sept. 3, Jose Dela Cruz, also through Dotts, sued CHC after his face was allegedly set on fire while undergoing operation at the government hospital on April 1, 2009.

ASIANA

From Page 1

from the CNMI's premier market destination.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that all charter flights will originate from Japan's Kansai airport.

Based on the airline's schedule, Asiana will fly in five charter flights next month: Oct. 2, 4, 7, 9, and 11.

Six short flights from the same market are confirmed on Nov. 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, and 29.

This month, three charter flights from the Narita airport flew in on Sept. 18 and 20. Today is the last charter flight slated for this month.

Asiana staffers have confirmed that at present the airline has a total of 15 flights to the CNMI, including the daily flights.

However, starting Oct. 1, the company will reduce its weekly flights from Korea's Incheon from seven to just four. Together with the twice-weekly flights from Busan, Asiana will be flying just six flights from these two destinations each week.

Due to low passenger demand, the airline had suspended its flight from Osaka, Japan, starting Sept. 27 through Dec. 17.

The airline earlier announced the pullout of its daytime flights between Saipan and South Korea's Incheon. The CNMI government had asked the company to reconsider, saying it will find ways to subsidize the airline's operation.

Asiana is the only international airline providing direct flight service between Saipan to South Korea, the second major market of the local tourism industry.

The airline earlier said the economic downturn has thrown the airline industry into turmoil and is seeking the help of the government.

Last March, Asiana Airlines suspended its four weekly flights between Saipan and Seoul due to low passenger demand. The suspension lasted until the end of June. Tourist arrivals from South Korea to the CNMI dipped for the eighth consecutive month in August but slightly recovered after flights from Seoul resumed.

WEEKEND

From Page 1

Over the weekend, robbers hit three separate poker arcades on Saipan, injuring a security guard. No one has been arrested.

The weekend's incidents brought to six the number of robbery cases on Saipan in the last three weeks. Five of these cases involved poker arcades.

The injured security guard, a 50-year-old male Chinese, was hit with a hammer in the left chest. Medics treated him at the scene, but he refused to be taken to the hospital.

The robberies happened at the Viva II Poker in Chalan Kanoa, New Star Poker in San Jose, and U Luck Poker in San Jose.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that two men armed with hammers had entered Viva II Poker on Friday at 12:06am.

One suspect hit the security guard on the chest with the hammer. The security guard defended himself with a long silver stick and fought off one suspect.

As the guard and the suspect were fighting, the other robber banged on the cashier's booth's Plexiglas and counter with a hammer, demanding that the cashier open the door. The cashier locked herself inside the booth and called police. The suspect continued hitting the Plexiglas window and door with the hammer. The Plexiglas and door were damaged, but the suspects failed to open the glass and the door.

At that point, the guard fought off the second suspect, prompting the suspects to grab a purse before fleeing the establishment.

The owner of the purse was a 42-year-old Filipino woman. Her husband was with her as she was playing poker. When the suspects entered the establishment, her husband grabbed her. The couple escaped through the back door while the security guard was fighting off the suspects.

When the couple returned inside, the bag containing $280 cash, credit cards, and identification, was already gone.

The suspects fled on board a light colored car. They were described as wearing black long-sleeved shirts, black pants, and masks. One suspect was wearing a brown hat and the other had a white hat.

The next day, Saturday, police officers responded to a robbery at New Star Poker around 5:27pm.

Investigation showed that two men, including one armed with a machete, had entered the poker arcade. The machete-wilding suspect hit the cashier's booth's window frame with the machete, demanding money. The cashier, who was inside the locked booth, immediately called police.

The armed suspect continued demanding for money and hitting the booth several times. The other suspect stood guard outside the cashier's booth.

The establishment's owner, a 55-year-old Korean, was sitting at a poker machine at the time.

When they realized that the cashier was calling the police, the suspects ran outside and fled aboard an old Mitsubishi Mirage car. The suspects failed to get any money.

On Sunday at 7:37am, police responded to a robbery at U Luck Poker.

Police learned that, while the 32-year-old Chinese female cashier was waiting for an employee to arrive, a man armed with a machete, suddenly appeared and went inside the booth.

The suspect took an estimated $3,000 cash from the drawer and fled the scene. He was described as wearing a light colored mask, cap, and shirt with blue jeans.

Dangerous waves shut down CNMI beaches

All beaches in the CNMI were closed yesterday due to dangerous waves and a high-surf advisory was in effect for the Mariana region until this morning.

In an advisory issued yesterday, the CNMI Emergency Management said that several observers from Guam and Saipan reported seeing high surf along north and west facing reefs.

The public is being urged to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along west and north facing reefs, as rip currents are life threatening.

Boating Safety officers were sent out to patrol and check all beaches to ensure that no swimmers and fisherman were venturing out yesterday.

The high surf advisory was in effect along north facing and west facing reefs until 6am today.

Based on information received from National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, EMO said that a second set of long period waves from the remnants of Super Typhoon Choi-Wan were expected to affect the area until Tuesday morning.

Hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet are projected to begin to subside below hazardous levels to 6 to 8 feet this morning. ***(EMO)***

'Demotion does not make 27 officers' lawsuit moot'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday denied the Department of Public Safety's request to dismiss the lawsuit filed by 27 police officers who protested the alleged discrimination in DPS' promotion and hiring practices.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also denied DPS' motion for a more definitive statement to define the basis of the alleged discrimination.

Wiseman ruled that the DPS' motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero and 26 other officers is premature.

At this time, Wiseman said, it would be inappropriate to grant DPS' motion to dismiss because Deleon Guerrero and the 26 other officers have not been given the opportunity to obtain necessary information that may support their allegation.

"Based on the factual allegations in the petition regarding DPS hiring, promotion, and salary practices, even if the allegations are limited to the treatment of only three officers, it is reasonable to conclude that discovery is warranted," said the judge in the six-page decision.

Discovery is part of the pretrial litigation process during which each party requests relevant information and documents from the other party to "discover" pertinent facts.

Until the 27 police officers are granted an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing, any ruling requiring the petitioners to file a more definitive statement would be inequitable, Wiseman said.

Wiseman set a status conference for Oct. 1, 2009, at 1:30pm to discuss the details of an evidentiary hearing and other matters.

Deleon Guerrero filed the petition in May 2009, asking the court to review his grievances against DPS. Twenty-six other police officers later joined in the lawsuit.

The petitioners asked the court, among other things, to direct a DPS-wide desk audit of all civil service employees to evaluate and assess their duties; responsibilities; rank; classification; salary status; and promotion eligibility.

The petitioners alleged that DPS' action in the hiring of three police sergeants were unlawful and that those agency actions should be set aside.

DPS, through assistant attorney general Meaghan Hasselshearer, filed the motion to dismiss. If the dismissal is denied, DPS moved for a more definitive statement.

DPS argued that only one of the three police sergeants in question, Officer Alfred Celes, is similarly situated to the 27 petitioners. DPS says the issue is now moot after department voluntarily demoted Celes.

The petitioners argued that dismissal based on the mootness doctrine is improper because the plain language of the petition asks for multiple forms of relief based on several claims against DPS.

The petitioners, through counsel Robert T. Torres, said the voluntary demotion of Celes does not make a judicial review moot.

DPS also argued that the petitioners must define the basis of the alleged discrimination. DPS claimed that without knowing the basis that petitioners were discriminated against, they cannot answer the questions of disparate treatment.

The petitioners said the petition contains a short and plain statement of its discrimination claim that provide DPS with fair notice of the basis of the claims for judicial review.

In denying DPS' motion to dismiss, Wiseman said it is clear from the petition that the scope of the relief sought goes beyond redressing the wrongful salary of Celes.

Further, at this stage in the proceedings, Wiseman said the petitioners must be given some leeway as to the specificity of the relief they are asking for because they have not had an opportunity to develop the record.

The judge said the petitioners are alleging that the very nature of DPS practices is violative of the Personnel Service Rules and Regulations and the Commonwealth Salary Act of 1998.

"Whether or not this claim is likely to succeed or not is not before this court; rather, DPS merely has to show that they are entitled to present evidence to support this claim," he said.

On the issue of more definitive statement, Wiseman said at this stage, the petitioners may actually be unable to determine on what basis they have been allegedly discriminated against and anything more specific could be speculative.

"At this time, the allegation that DPS has favored other similarly situated officers on a basis other than merit is sufficient," the judge said.

Psychologist testifies in Calvo trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government called yesterday a former psychologist at the Community Guidance Center to testify in the ongoing jury trial of businessman Patrick Mendiola Calvo.

Kendall Gladding was the psychologist at the Community Guidance Center who evaluated the teenage girl who was allegedly sexually assaulted by Calvo.

Calvo

Gladding, who now works at the Department of Veterans Affairs, also conducted counseling on the girl.

Gladding's testimony, however, was cut short yesterday after Calvo's counsel, G. Anthony Long, asked Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja to give him time to review Gladding's notes that she made during the interview on the girl.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher told the court that he also wants to look into the notes because they were not provided to the prosecution.

Naraja will continue the hearing today, Tuesday, at 9am and ordered Gladding to appear in court.

When Naraja announced the continuation of the trial, some family members of the victim's mother were seen shaking their heads and looking at each other in the courtroom.

The prosecution alleged that Calvo sexually assaulted a then 13-year-old girl on June 11, 2008. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

On Friday, one of Calvo's children testified against him. The daughter said that in June 2008, the victim had confided to her about the molestation.

Rodriguez is new NMC student council president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The interim president of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College has been certified as its newest chief executive officer after an election held last week on campus.

Milescelyn F. Rodriguez run unopposed for the top position and was named the student council's new president, succeeding Ivan Mereb to the post.

Rodriguez, a nursing student, assumed the council presidency last semester during the remainder of her term as treasurer when Mereb quit his position.

Among her goals as new student leader are to promote more student activities and get more students to be involved. She aims to advance cultural diversity and encourage more foreign students to take part in these undertakings.

Over 200 students participated in the election where six candidates vied for the four key positions in office.

Elected as new vice president this school year was Daniel T. Kintol, while Stacey Demapan and Min Seon Park were chosen as the group's secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The new officers will be inducted on Sept. 25, 2009, during NMC's Performance Report to the Public and its Accreditation celebration.

ASNMC serves as the representative body of all students enrolled at the college. It also acts on behalf of and serves as a forum for all students, and is directly involved in shared governance and participatory decision-making at the institution.

The ASNMC appoints members to the NMC College Council, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Planning, Program Review, and Outcomes Assessment Committee, and other shared governance groups.

Rodriguez, as new president, will sit on the Board of Regents as a nonvoting honorary member.

Among the previous events organized by the council included the CNMI Delegate Forum, the International Week events, and NMC Haunted House.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said she looks forward to working with the new set of student leaders.

"I want to extend my congratulations to the winners of the election," said Fernandez, adding "we look forward to working closely with the officers to truly realize NMC's 'Students First' philosophy."

Fernandez said the college is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteer leaders who are committed to student excellence.

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, center, poses with the newly elected officers of the Associated Students of NMC, the college's student governance group. The officers are, from left: Min Seon Park, treasurer; Milescelyn Rodriguez, president; Stacey Demapan, secretary; and Daniel Kintol, vice president. The induction ceremony for the new officers will be held at NMC's Performance Report to the Public and its Accreditation Celebration on Sept. 25, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Essays, artists inspired by '*Hafa Adai Tirow* Way' message

Student essayists and local artists inspired by the island hospitality spirit of "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Way" were recognized by Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority on Sept. 17 at the Garapan Street Market on Saipan.

MTEC awarded the top winners of an essay and logo contest under the theme, which includes the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian words of greeting "*hafa adai*" and "*tirow.*" Recognition was given to top essayists Adeleyah Mojica (1st), Christie Camacho (2nd) and Jeffrey P. Che (3rd) and top logo designers Arthur Anda (1st), Hyun Jeong Lee (2nd) and Khristine M. Reyes (3rd).

"The biggest single act each resident can do to promote tourism is to just do what islanders can do best—be friendly and hospitable!" said MTEC president Ed Cho. "The '*Hafa Adai Tirow* Way" is more than a slogan. It's a way of life, a way to show that we appreciate visitors, and a way to also reinforce our traditional culture."

Mojica suggested: "Inviting someone into your home is a great way to show hospitality. Another way is to offer someone a tour of the islands."

MVA

Top winners of the Hafa Adai Tirow Way logo and essay contest are congratulated by Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority at the Garapan Street Market in Saipan last Thursday, Sept. 17. MTEC has kicked off the Hafa Adai Tirow Way campaign to promote island hospitality toward visitors. From left are MTEC president Ed Cho, top logo winner Arthur Anda, top essay winner Adeleyah Mojica, MVA Community Programs manager Martin Duenas, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, and MTEC vice chair Vicky Benavente.

Anda's winning logo depicts the silhouette of two island dancers framed by coconut trees against a setting sun. A Chamorro latte stone and Carolinian *mwar* are also incorporated into the design.

"Tourism is our bread and butter—or to put it another way, our breadfruit and fish," said Cho. "We encourage each resident to make visitors feel welcomed by being hospitable whenever they can. Stop at a crosswalk for pedestrians, smile, share your picnic—a little bit of kindness can make a long and lasting impression."

All winners will receive cash prizes. Cho also acknowledged the support of the former *Hafa Adai Tirow* Way Spirit Committee and Integrity Communications in conducting the contest. ***(MVA)***

Nominees sought for Tourism Industry Excellence Awards

Nominations for the Marianas Visitors Authority's first Tourism Industry Excellence Awards are beginning to trickle in, as the visitors authority prepares to recognize individuals and organizations for advancing tourism this year.

Members of MVA have begun submitting nominations to recognize the work of those who have contributed toward promoting the Northern Mariana Islands as a safe and hospitable sports and leisure destination.

The nomination deadline is Sept. 30, 2009.

The award categories are: Tourism Promotion/Campaign of the Year, Most Outstanding Personal Contribution, Volunteer of the Year, Top Tourism Attraction of the Year, Most Outstanding Destination Enhancement, and Employee of the Year.

"Tourism in the Northern Marianas is everybody's business, and these Tourism Industry Excellence Awards are an opportunity for us to recognize some of the top contributions made this fiscal year to improving the industry," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We are looking forward to announcing the awards later this year, and we encourage our members to name their top picks and submit their nominations before Sept. 30."

The criteria for each category are:

■ **Tourism Promotion/ Campaign of the Year:** Nominees should have run or participated in a promotion or campaign that substantially benefited overall tourism arrivals during the period and or significantly improved the image of the Northern Marianas. The names of individuals that drove this promotion/campaign should be included.

■ **Most Outstanding Personal Contribution:** That person whose efforts more than any other have contributed the most to advancing tourism in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during the period.

■ **Volunteer of the Year:** That person who donated their time, effort and /or funds to projects, companies, agencies or other entities for the betterment of tourism in the Marianas.

■ **Top Tourism Attraction:** That person, place, location, activity, attribute or venue that attracted the most travelers to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

■ **Most Outstanding Destination Enhancement:** Nominees should meet criteria for the physical project that best improved the salability of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to the traveling public and was completed or substantially completed during 2009. MVA projects or related projects will not qualify.

■ **Employee of the Year:** An employee that is deserving of such recognition

Nomination forms and additional information are available from MVA Community Program Manager Martin Duenas or Ed Diaz at 662-3200/1. ***(MVA)***

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Board of Education WORK SESSION on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

WORK SESSION #1
GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR SY '09-'10

I. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS
II. DISCUSSION
a. Goals and Priorities for SY '09-'10 For Recommendation to the Board
III. ADJOURNMENT

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on September 22nd, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before September 22nd.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than September 22nd. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

IT&E
Life in Motion

Three MHS students earn AP Scholar Awards

Three students at Marianas High School— Odessa Slyter, Darren Demapan, and Jessica Savellano—have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams.

About 18 percent of the nearly 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams. At MHS, Slyter qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Demapan and Savellano qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher.

"I am so proud of the achievement of our students on these rigorous college-level tests. This proves that our students are on par and are as academically gifted as their peers in private school or U.S. mainland schools," said Karen acting MHS principal Borja.

Each AP exam is developed by a committee of college and university faculty and AP teachers, ensuring that AP exams are aligned with the same high standards expected by college faculty at some of the nation's leading liberal arts and research institutions.

More than 3,600 colleges and universities annually receive AP grades. Over 90 percent of four-year colleges in the United States provide credit and/ or placement for qualifying exam grades. Research consistently shows that AP students who scored a 3 or higher on AP Exams (based on a scale from 1-5, with 5 being the highest) typically experiences greater success in college and higher graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP. ***(PR)***

Hyatt ends Oktoberfest with cocktails, Becks beer

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To wrap-up its five-day Oktoberfest last week, Hyatt Regency Saipan treated its regular guests to a cocktail party Friday evening at the Kili Café & Terrace.

Hyatt executive chef Gabriele Colombo said it was a chance for the hotel to celebrate with guests and their friends a successful week (Sept. 14-19) of sumptuous German cuisine.

"We have prepared German-style foods along with Beck's beer," said Colombo.

Beck's is the best selling beer in Germany and is solely distributed on Saipan by Marpac.

Marpac marketing manager Jojo Camacho said the night's event is emblematic of their company's good partnership with Hyatt.

"It's a wonderful evening with the hotel's regular guests and we thank Hyatt for giving us the opportunity to join them in celebrating events like this," Camacho said.

Colombo explained that they held the Oktoberfest this month to keep up with the German tradition of holding the festival each September.

The menu for the week's buffet included Bavarian braised beef with egg dumpling (Sauerbraten mit Spatzle), slow roasted pork hocks basted with dark beer with sauerkraut and boiled potato (Eisbein), and baked stuffed Cornish hen with apple-raisin sauce (Uberbackener Huhner mit Apfel und Rosinesosse).

There was also Fisch mit Krautern und Weisswein (steamed fish with thyme, basil and white wine), Gemuse Bauerntopfe (Bavarian vegetables casserole), Kartoffel Roesti (roasted potato) and Bavarian Rice Dinner, barbecue, soups sausages and cheeses and desserts.

One of the guests, Dan Wang of the U.S. Labor office, said she kept coming back because of the authentic quality of the menu.

"I like German food because it always smells good and the taste is excellent," Wang said.

Food & Beverage assistant manager Michael Wilson was profuse in his thanks to guests who made the Oktoberfest week successful.

The cocktail party, he said, is a chance for guests to get together with their friends and enjoy a night with Beck's beer.

Wilson is inviting the community to join them in their current and future offerings such as the Kurabuta Pork dinner on Sept. 30, the ongoing Taste of Milan at Giovanni's that offers authentic Italian cuisine, the Chusock Korean holiday on Oct. 1-10 and the special event for Halloween at Kili Café on Oct. 30.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo serves one of the guests, Dan Wang of U.S. Labor office, during the Oktoberfest at Kili Café & Terrace last Friday.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Mar Salilin, who is celebrating his birthday today, Sept. 22, 2009! May each hour and minute be filled with delight, and your birthday be perfect for you. God bless and we love you! Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

4th Quarterly Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the Fourth Quarterly Meeting to take place on September 22, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saipan at the Council on Developmental Disabilities Conference Room. The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Order
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes – July 6, 2009
VI. Committee Reports
  a. HR Committee
    i. Contract of Executive Director
  b. Call-A-Ride Committee Status Report
  c. Membership Committee Report
  d. Expiration of Members
VII. Reports
  a. Fiscal Officer
  b. Family 360 Updates/Report
  c. FS 360 Program Coordinator/System Navigator
  d. AT Program Coordinator
VIII. Old Business
  a. Review and Adoption of By-Laws
  b. Council Training in September
IX. New Business
  a. Election of CDD Secretary
  b. Election of Vice Chair
  c. State Plan 2011
X. Open Discussion
XI. Next meeting
XII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

Call for Nominations
2009 Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards. Individuals, groups and organizations may be nominated for significant contributions to the humanities in five categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities**
- **Preservation of CNMI History**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher**
- **Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities**

Nomination forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Humanities Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Nomination forms must be received by the Humanities Council on or before **4:30 p.m. on 9 October 2009**. Awardees will be selected by a majority vote of the Council's board of directors.

Awards will be presented during the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards ceremonies in October 2009. The time, date and venue of this event will be announced shortly. Please contact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional information about the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

Standup comedy show draws huge audience

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Philippine comedian Vice Ganda opens his performance with a sing-and-dance number with Saipan's youth group Project Impact.

A large crowd of mostly Filipinos filled the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort on Saturday night for the no-holds-barred standup routine of two of the Philippines' most sought after comedians, Ogie Diaz and Vice Ganda.

The three-hour show, dubbed "Kambal Sa Tawa," was a wild success, according to the show's organizer, Promoter Digital Motion, which said that tickets were sold out—150 for the VIP ($30), and 500 for the general admissions ($15).

Fans started lining up at the gate as early as an hour before the show, which was delayed for about 30 minutes as others were still trying to squeeze their way in. Organizers decided to let them in after all those with reservations have taken their seats.

The show was a first offering of Digital Motion and the company promises to stage more.

"Our next performer would be Sarah Geronimo," said Edwin Sta. Teresa, Digital Motion's production manager.

Diaz and Vice Ganda had the SRO crowd in stitches with their ribald jokes and antics. The presence of some children in the crowd prompted them to occasionally apologize when making one of their racier jokes.

"This is supposed to be strictly for adults only," said Diaz, who is a mainstay in one of The Filipino Channel's soap operas.

Five hours earlier, at a press conference at the 360 Revolving Restaurant, Diaz explained that the show will be PG rated. Some parents, however, still brought some of their minor children to the show, including less than a year old babies.

That never mattered as Vice Ganda (a screen name) decided to incorporate the children's presence into his routine. Even the several hours delay during his transit in Guam became fodder for his act. He also killed the crowd with his impersonations of Philippine president Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo and Manny Pacquiao's mother Aling Dionisia. One of the highlights of his performance was a kiss with one of the show's emcees.

He wrapped up the night with a medley of the late Karen Carpenter's greatest hits.

It was Diaz and Vice Ganda's first visit to Saipan. Both have already done similar shows in Guam.

The show was jointly sponsored by IT&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Bud Light, Magic KWAW, Shell, Traders Insurance, Shirley's Coffee Shop, TransAmerica, Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, Budet Car Rental, 360 Revolving Restaurant, and Genoveva's Hair Power.

Diaz also personally thanked Obet Aguilar, his classmate in high school, who was responsible for inviting the two comedians to Saipan after an earlier show did not push through in Guam.

Diaz also acknowledged the presence in the crowd of another high school classmate, Judy Mendieta, whom he said was their valedictorian at V. Mapa High School.

Diaz and Vice Ganda said this kind of show is just part of how they want to make Filipinos smile and even laugh at the many crises the country is experiencing.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dog found

A large brown and white male dog, approximately 1.5-2 years old, was found in the Papago area on Saturday morning. He is very gentle and friendly. If you or someone you know is missing a dog that fits this description, please contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. You may also claim the dog at Paradise Island Animal Hospital, which located on Middle Road, or by calling 234-9669. ***(PAWS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jiana Isa Dela Rosa Maratita, who is celebrating her 10th birthday today! Love: Daddy who's watching down from heaven, Mommy, Uncle Ray, Grandpa and Grandma.

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort Job Fair today

The Kagman Komunidat Association would like to announce that Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort will be having a job fair at the Kagman Community Center today, Sept. 22, from 5pm to 7pm. Applications and resumes will be accepted for the different departments for Lao Lao's new hotel. Please bring your resume and dress appropriately.

Radio talk show to feature Guerrero-Camacho team

The Chamorro radio talk show program called "Marianas Agupa," hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Juan "Pan" Guerrero and Joseph N. Camacho, on Magic 100.3 FM on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, from 9am to 11am in the morning. Discussions will be on social, economic, political, and cultural issues facing the Commonwealth today. The phone line at the radio station will be open for question during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast on www.magic100radio.com will also be available. ***(PR)***

Groundbreaking rite for Navy quarters

SANTA RITA, Guam—A groundbreaking ceremony for Navy bachelor enlisted quarters is scheduled for 10am today, Sept. 22, on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded Hensel Phelps Construction Co., of Greeley, Colorado in April 2009 a $53.7 million project to construct the multi-story housing facility for enlisted sailors.

The project will incorporate energy efficient design concepts and eco-conscious construction techniques to achieve U.S. Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) Gold certification.

The new BEQ is slated for completion in May 2011, and will support mission readiness of Naval Base Guam while enhancing quality of life for young sailors. ***(USN)***

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on the islands of Rota and Saipan. The dates and times for each of the presentations are as follows:

Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Northern Marianas College-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2

Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 – 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

- John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)
- Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)
- John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)
- Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)
- Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 22, 1999

Manglona pleads guilty

Federal Judge Alex Munson unsealed yesterday a plea agreement which contained former Tinian Sen. Herman Manglona's admission to charges of bribe-taking, mail fraud, and jury-tampering. Court documents showed that Manglona pleaded guilty last Sept. 13. He resigned from the Senate the following day, Sept. 14, a day before his birthday. Manglona was indicted for soliciting and accepting bribe money from Sablan Construction Ltd., Inc. when he was mayor of Tinian. Sablan Construction, which rents heavy equipment, was subsequently rewarded by the Tinian Mayor's Office with contracts for the rent of payloaders and dump trucks, among others.

All Nippon Airways to fly to CNMI

All Nippon Airways will operate 10 Osaka-Saipan charter flights on Dec. 25, 1999 to Jan. 7, 2000 to cash in on the expected influx of Japanese travelers who would want to celebrate the new millennium on the island. The millennium trip was planned by Pacific Micronesia Tours, Inc. and Tasi Tours, subsidiaries of Tokyo-based Japan Travel Bureau Inc., the biggest tour operator in the world. A B767 aircraft, with a seating capacity of 260, will be used in the chartered flights. "We are doing this as part of our commitment to help the CNMI tourism industry which has been suffering due to the regional crisis," said Ikuo Katayama, general manager of PMT.

Sept. 22, 2000

NMIRF sued over benefits

Former Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos A. Shoda yesterday filed a civil suit against the Northern Marianas Island Retirement Fund in connection with what he called as illegal deductions on his retirement benefits. Mr. Shoda, who retired in December 1997, was informed by NMIRF that his retirement benefits will be adjusted effective April 30,2000 because he was overpaid in the total amount of $19,851.43. The retirement agency's action was based on a recommendation by the Office of the Public Auditor which said that the former ports authority director was receiving benefits $5,114 higher than what other government officials on the same salary bracket get.

Gov't to lose $10-M under single tax rate

The Department of Finance has projected revenue loss of over $10 million, based on current tax collections, if the government implements a legislative proposal seeking simplified taxation system in the CNMI. The bill would also mean higher taxes for more than three-fourths of wage earners on the islands as well as over two-thirds of business establishments here, according to Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen. She made this analysis in a written testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee which is reviewing the measure offered by Speaker Benigno R. Fitial.

Sept. 22, 2002

Outbound traffic shrinks 17 percent

The number of outbound passengers dropped 17 during the first 10 months of the financial year 2002 to 397,708 from the previous year's 481,135, reflecting a significant slowdown in air transport traffic. A report obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority also disclosed that the CNMI needs more than 170,000 people traveling out of the Northern Marianas in the remaining two months of the fiscal year 2002 to reach last year's level of outbound traffic. Outbound traffic also dropped in the first 10 months of 2001 compared with the 2000 tally, with last year's statistics falling 2 percent to 492,342. The gap, however, widens when the figures of 2000 and 2001 are compared for the entire 12-month period, with the number of outbound passengers shrinking by 5 percent from 594,966 in 2000 to last year's 567,848.

All set for the Miss International pageant

The buzz among avid beauty pageant followers is that the Northern Marianas, for once, actually stands a chance against 60 of the world's most gorgeous and wittiest women through the CNMI's bet to the 2002 Miss International Pageant: Christine Juwelle D. Cunanan. Faced with such a high expectation, Cunanan, a 21-year-old pre-law graduate, has pulled out all the stops to prepare herself physically, mentally and emotionally for the prestigious competition. "A lot of people have been coming up to me and saying that "We think you have a chance!.' And they don't know how much that means to me. But it's a lot of pressure though," says the young beauty queen.

Join The Guam-CNMI Foundation for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in celebrating ESGR Week, September 20-26, 2009, on Guam and in the CNMI.
THANK YOU EMPLOYERS FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS.

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Mr. Efrain Camacho, left, received a Patriot Award from U.S. Army Reserve member, SSG Noel Chargualaf.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE
Guam-CNMI Committee

For more information, contact your local CNMI ESGR reps:

Ms. Rose Igitol @ 287-1129
Mr. Clyde Norita @ 483-3488
Ms. Geri Willis @ 287-2004
Mr. Mariano Fajardo @ 483-2549

TOGETHER --- WE ALL SERVE!!!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 227

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MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Administration moves closer to reduced auto emissions

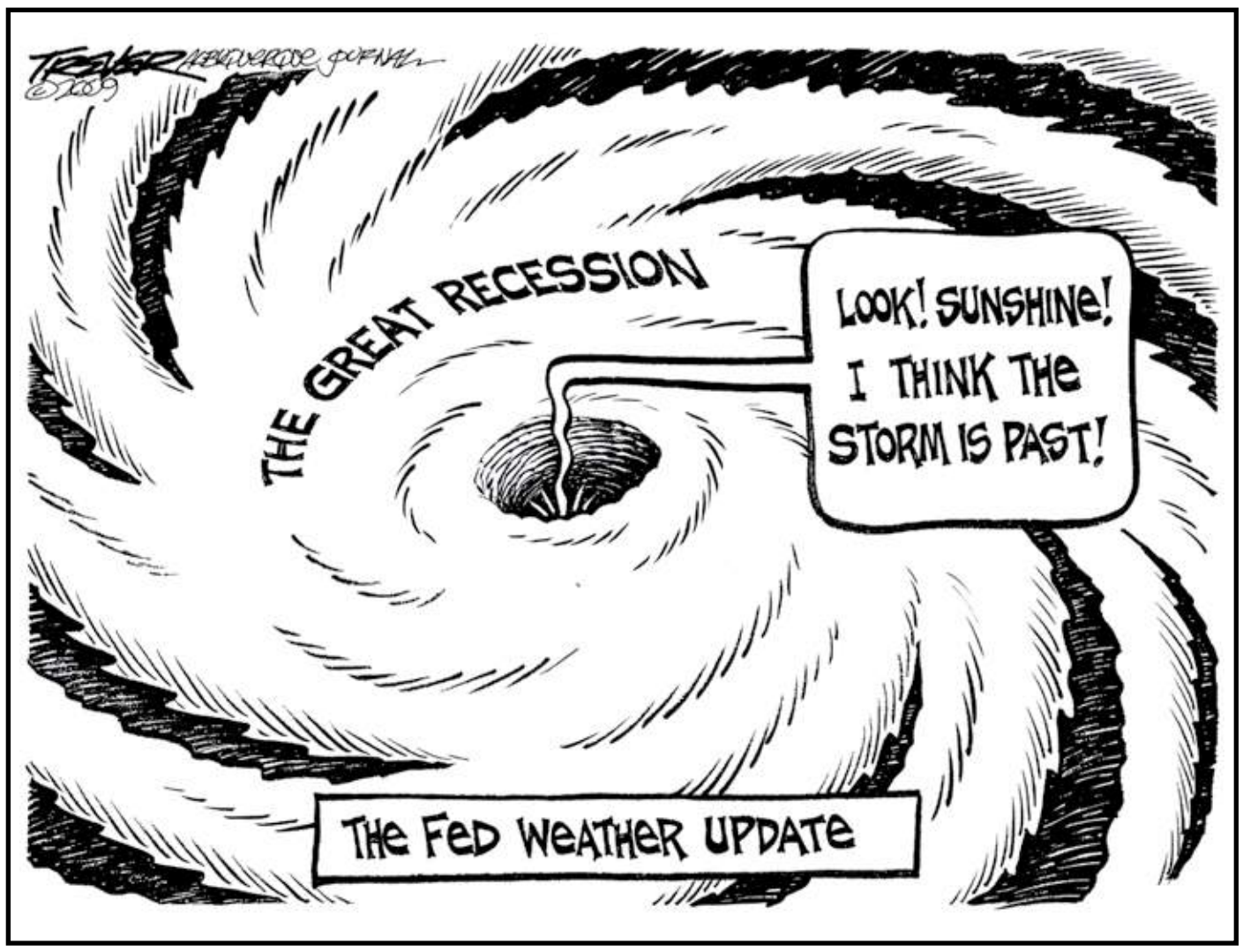
The announcement by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson in the White House press room on Tuesday was brief. But their plan to reduce emissions from motor vehicles and light trucks was significant. Not only would it provide the nation's first greenhouse gas emissions standard, but the new rules, devised with automakers' participation, would also bring about the biggest increase in gas mileage in history.

By the 2016 model year, reductions in carbon dioxide from motor vehicles would have to reach 250 grams per mile, and corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) would have to reach 35.5 miles per gallon. This would be an acceleration of the 35 mpg by 2020 that Congress mandated under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. According to Jackson, the standard would reduce oil consumption "by an estimated 1.8 billion barrels" between 2012 and 2016, prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 42 million cars and save the average car buyer "more than $3,000 in fuel costs." The EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say automakers could meet the new requirements by increasing the use of start-stop technology and improving engine efficiency, transmissions, tires and air-conditioning systems. Yes, hybrids are expected to play a part.

The rules also would establish a national standard for fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This has been the long-sought goal of automakers concerned about a patchwork of regulations they otherwise would have to comply with from the EPA, NHTSA and California. Since 2004, the Golden State had been trying to institute its more-stringent greenhouse gas emission standards. Maryland, 12 other states and Washington D.C. adopted them as well. But California needed a waiver from the EPA to implement them. It was granted in June after the state's Air Resources Board agreed to change its program so that compliance with the new federal standard would be deemed in compliance with California's regulations.

This plan is the meat on the bones of the national fuel efficiency policy that President Obama announced in May with smiling auto executives, environmental advocates and public officials in the Rose Garden. The final plan is due in March. Their continued work shows that progress on addressing climate change is at least being made *somewhere* on Pennsylvania Avenue.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Opening eyes

By HECTOR TOBAR
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Tobar is a Times *columnist.*

The e-mail that popped into my inbox started with an insult and included an attachment full of "facts."

After calling me a "crybaby" for writing a sympathetic story about Mexican immigrants, the sender insisted I read a series of statistics on the effect of illegal immigration on Los Angeles and California. Hospitals, law enforcement and other public services, he said, are being overwhelmed.

At first, because of the sender's tone, I ignored the attachment. Then it arrived again, this time forwarded by a friendly reader. He didn't believe the e-mail, he said, but wanted me to know that three friends had sent it to him. And 10 of its facts were said to have originated in the Los Angeles Times.

I started reading the chain letter, which carried the title "Just One State." It asked me to retransmit its message to at least two other people.

"If this doesn't open your eyes," it declared, "nothing will."

I'm all in favor of having my eyes opened—and then making sure my eyes don't deceive me. So I took the 10 "stats" and focused a little light on them. I waded deep into the Times' archive, with the help of staff librarian Scott Wilson, and made a few phone calls too.

What did I find? A stew made up for the most part of meaty exaggerations and spicy conjecture, mixed in with some giblets of truth. Two of the "stats" are the musings of a conservative op-ed writer. Another takes its information from a government "report" that is, in fact, a work of fiction.

The last two items on the list are the most accurate—but they reveal more about the prejudices and fears of the people passing the list along than they do about the supposed effect of "illegals."

Here they are, from one to 10:

—1. "40 percent of all workers in Los Angeles County are working for cash and not paying taxes. ... This is because they are predominantly illegal immigrants working without a green card."

The source of this information seems to be a 2005 study by the Economic Roundtable of Los Angeles on the county's informal economy. But the chain-mail author more than doubled the figures in that study, which estimated that 15 percent of the county workforce was outside the regulated economy in 2004. Illegal immigrants getting paid in cash, it said, probably made up about 9 percent of the workforce.

A later Economic Roundtable report, by the way, credited immigrants with keeping the local economy from shrinking in the 1990s.

—2. "95 percent of warrants for murder in Los Angeles are for illegal aliens. ..."

We traced this "fact" to a 2004 op-ed in the Times by Heather Mac Donald of the conservative Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Mac Donald said "officers" told her about the warrants. She conceded that there was no such data in official reports but suggested the Los Angeles Police Department "top brass" was hiding the truth.

I called the department's media office, whose officers contacted the department's Fugitive Warrants Section. They confirmed the statistics in item No. 2 and No. 3, which follows, don't exist.

—3. "75 percent of people on the most wanted list in Los Angeles are illegal aliens."

We traced this figure to something circulating on the Internet under the name "the 2006 (First Quarter) INS/FBI Statistical Report on Undocumented Immigrants." The "report" contains similar figures for Phoenix, Albuquerque and other cities. But it isn't an actual government document. The INS ceased to exist in 2003, after the Department of Homeland Security was created.

There's something disturbing about a work of fakery meant to tarnish an entire class of people. You wonder what kind of person would pen such a thing.

—4. "Over 2/3 of all births in Los Angeles County are to illegal alien Mexicans on Medi-Cal, whose births were paid for by taxpayers."

Once again the "statistic" more than doubles the actual percentage. According to a 2006 story in the Times, there were 41,240 Medi-Cal births to "undocumented women" in the county in 2004. They accounted for 27 percent of all births.

—5. "Nearly 35 percent of all inmates in California detention centers are Mexican nationals here illegally."

This time the author more than triples the actual figure. Authorities project some 19,000 of the 172,000 inmates in the California prison system in the 2009-2010 fiscal year will be illegal immigrants. That's equivalent to 11 percent.

A study published last year by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California found that U.S.-born men in California are 10 times more likely to be incarcerated than foreign-born men. You can take that statistic with as many grains of salt as you wish.

—6. "Over 300,000 illegal aliens in Los Angeles County are living in garages."

This information apparently comes from a 1987 story in which the Times visited a sampling of properties and looked for unauthorized garage conversions. The story concluded that 200,000 people

See OPENING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Churls gone wild

By JEANNE MCMANUS
Special to The Washington Post

Jeanne McManus, a former Post *editor, is an occasional contributor to the op-ed page.*

Now that Rep. Joe Wilson has been rebuked by Congress, isn't it time to move on? Or couldn't we have moved on before his knuckles were smacked with a ruler? In fact, after recent displays of incivility, icon-smashing and anarchy in Congress, on the tennis court and at an awards show, why look to the past, when we can go forward?

Well, I'd like to. But can I ever again look at Wilson and not see the sputtering, fuming minor-leaguer who popped off in a full session of Congress and called the president a liar? If the guy is chastised, somehow rebooted and given anger-management classes and then goes on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in five years, I am still going to see a backbencher in a baby blue tie caught in his moment of shame.

Can I ever again watch Serena Williams on the tennis court and not think about that belligerent explosive woman with her biceps, deltoids and triceps pulsing in anger as she clenched and sliced her racket through the air while berating a lineswoman for a bad call at the U.S. Open? Let's move on, her sister Venus implored. Okay, but when was the last time you saw a woman who was (a) that ticked off and (b) so physically capable of making good on her threat to shove a tennis ball down an official's throat? It leaves a lasting impression.

Hell on Earth has got to be finding yourself caught in one of these continuous loops of your own lunacy, a fish flopping in a video stream that doesn't even have the decency to dump you in a river where you can disappear. Your best hope if you're Serena Williams is that somebody else comes along soon with behavior so infinitely more boorish that your YouTube moment moves out of the Top 10.

Enter Kanye West, stage right.

I'd be lying if I said I was a fan of his oeuvre. But now I am morbidly fascinated by the hubris that would propel a man to rise up out of the audience of the MTV Video Music Awards Sunday night, seize the stage, take the microphone from a nervous 19-year-old Taylor Swift and inform her that Beyonce deserved the award Swift had just received. (Kudos to Beyonce, who looked horrified during West's outburst, for the elegant way she later brought Swift back to the stage.)

A phone call to Rahm Emanuel, a less than expansive statement followed by a contrite news conference at the U.S. Open and a muted appearance on "The Jay Leno Show" have served as apologies for Wilson, Williams and West, respectively. But those aren't the replays we're watching. Let's face it: Why move on when we know it's much more fun to watch an explosion than an implosion?

Mired in the past, Michael Jordan was inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame recently. In an unusually emotional and brutally frank acceptance speech, the guy stood before his colleagues and the cameras and ticked off the petty grievances—dating as far back as high school—that propelled him to compete and to excel. I'm not saying he's wrong to use that resentment as self-motivation. I understand: I'm Irish. We know how to carry a grudge. But it's one thing to think those thoughts and quite another to unreel every small slight at the moment when your greatness is being celebrated.

Yes, I'm all in favor of moving on. But moving on doesn't mean we can pretend it didn't happen. If we want to jettison the past and look to the future, it's an even better idea to chill in the present, whether at a town meeting, on the sideline of your kid's soccer game or on national TV. We can look to the coolness of Barack Obama's response to Wilson, to Kim Clijsters' professionalism toward Williams, to Beyonce's outreach to Swift, to David Robinson's classy NBA induction speech for positive role models.

Sadly, none of those are spinning endlessly in replay.

Letters to the Editor

Poker politics

The average person in the CNMI understands the game of poker and I was thinking about the upcoming election and it dawned on me that much of politics is really nothing more than a poker game. Just think about it, there are four candidates for governor, which tells me some of the candidates are really just gambling against the odds. We see the poker game going on all the time but maybe some of us never viewed it as a poker game. Try this on for size.

The federalization issue has been a poker game going back to the Froilan administration. The feds raised the stakes and we have been trying for almost a decade to stay in the game when we should have folded while we were ahead. Just imagine if we had started the transition to federal standards at a slow pace 10 years ago—yes, we would be there now and federalization would be a thing of the past. Instead, we kept betting and raising the stakes, wasting millions of dollars on a *losing hand*! Incidentally, it was one of those things I predicted because it's basic political science, which is the game our leaders really need to master.

The CUC issue has been like a poker game and it is still a big part of the poker game in this election. But I want to tell people that fixing CUC *was not* our problem as the problem was in the lack of planning and maintenance. There is no fixing the cost of fuel and we should have been looking for alternative resources years ago. Look around the world and it's easy to see we are last in line. But back to the poker game. When Governor Babauta left office, CUC was producing 51 megawatts of power and we thought we had a sure winning hand with the former director at the helm of the Commonwealth. We checked the box with their name and waited to see the dealer show the turn cards but when all the cards were turned over, CUC was only producing 2 megawatts of power and we had to rent power. Yes, we went from 51 to 2 megawatts under the present administration. Not only did we lose the poker hand but the house (the feds) ended up catching the main person we were depending upon to fix the problem cheating. Miraculously, CUC has now been fixed just in time for the next election so it is obvious to me that CUC was nothing more than a poker game by the present administration and the only people who lost was you and me.

Now CHC is the critical poker hand we are playing and the cards really don't look good but it seems the strategy for playing the hand is to stay when it is clearly time to throw the hand in and play another hand. Meaning we need to change the leadership and approach to fixing the problem by putting the right people in place (get a better poker hand). The professional workforce is already suffering from malnutrition, with virtually only a skeleton remaining and our leaders need to use the best people to play the best poker hand for the people and not for their political family and agenda.

Signs have even become a part of the poker game to give the impression of having a good winning hand. The more signs they put out, the bigger the bluff and I realize that all the candidates must keep up with the competition but there is a way for people to tell who is really holding the winning hand. As in the game of poker, you must be able to read your opponent and the way to read the sign is simply look to see if the sign is on someone's property or on public easement—there is a difference. The ones on private property are real votes and support and the ones on easements are bluffs. All the candidates have signs on private and public property and its up to us voters to do our homework, be aware and pay attention—don't take anything for granted. The hand we bet on in this election will determine our quality of life for the next four years so it's a *big* pot on the table and we will have no choice but to go *all in*. We need to win now more than ever, so vote smart, not with your heart, to pick the winning hand.

There are many other examples of poker politics and I hope you have grasped the concept. But I must say there has been a candidate who won a seat in the House of Representatives without even putting up a sign or campaigning which tells me that person was a real politician and not just a poker politician because he was elected solely on his deeds and merits. Even though I didn't agree with him on everything I must give him credit because politicians like that are rare. We need more politicians to follow his example of leadership and really do things to influence change in the CNMI.

We need politicians who are *not afraid* to get out in front on serious and controversial issues and lead. The present administration couldn't handle a simple appointment to the board so it wasn't hard for me to realize they couldn't handle federalization so the only option was to try and prevent playing out the hand on federalization but all bets were in. The politician I was talking about was indeed one of the most outspoken representatives in the history of the CNMI Legislature—he mastered the keys to real leadership. Real leaders don't sit back and stay quiet. They put it on the line for the people they serve, just like our military people do with their life. But isn't that something, people can put their life on the line for our country but some politicians are afraid to put their political career on the line and guess who suffers? You and I!

Finally, politicians need *to know when to fold them, know when to hold them, know when to walk away and know when to run*. I say this because it is apparent to me and many people that there is a strong possibility for a runoff election. Should it come to a runoff and the second place person is not even close to the first place winner, they need to fold their hand and walk away to save the people from the additional and unnecessary election that will almost surely embarrass them more and make them wish they had run away. If there is a narrow margin then we may have a real poker game but hopefully people will be united enough to get it right the first time by voting with a majority vote for who is really the best candidate. To do this we must do our homework and vote smart and pay attention to the poker game and the players.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

'Sorry'

Dear Mr. Ruben Almero Artates: I am writing you this letter to ask you to forgive me for beating you up on December 25, 2007. I have realized and now understand that what I did was wrong and it brought shame to my families and me. I had no intention of harming you in any way. I was intoxicated and was not in a proper mindset. This inappropriate behavior has caused me to experience difficulties and hardships in my life. I was incarcerated for two months, placed on probation and required to perform 300 hours of community service and some unforeseen financial obligations that can be applied in a more beneficial manner.

Mr. Artates, please find kindness in you heart and forgive me for offending and harming you. This unacceptable behavior would not be repeated and I promise to remain a productive and law-abiding citizen. Once again, please forgive me for this inappropriate behavior.

Antonio C. Dela Cruz
Capitol Hill, Saipan

OPENING

From Page 10

lived in such dwellings.

The story made no effort, however, to determine immigration status. I would like to point out that living in an "illegal garage" doesn't make you "an illegal." You might just be a starving artist or a guy who recently lost his job.

—7. "The FBI reports half of all gang members in Los Angeles are most likely illegal aliens from south of the border."

This is another "fact" spun from the 2004 op-ed by Mac Donald, whose article refers to a single Los Angeles gang and the conjecture of an unnamed federal prosecutor.

—8. "Nearly 60 percent of all occupants of HUD properties are illegal."

Annie Kim, a spokeswoman for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, called this statement "an urban legend."

The source of the information might be an Associated Press report from earlier this year. It quoted a government study that found that 0.4 percent of residents of federally funded public housing are "ineligible noncitizens." Half of those, or about 0.2 percent of the total, are illegal immigrants.

—9. 21 radio stations in Los Angeles are Spanish speaking.

—10. In Los Angeles County, 5.1 million people speak English; 3.9 million speak Spanish.

These facts are close to the actual numbers, although the language figures are deceptive.

An annual Census survey asks people if they "speak a language other than English at home." According to the most recent report, 3.7 million county residents speak Spanish. But more than half those Spanish-speakers answered that they also speak English "very well." Only 1 in 10 Spanish speakers said they don't speak English at all.

Obviously, the ability to speak a language other than English, or the desire to listen to Spanish music, doesn't make you an illegal immigrant or a threat to U.S. democracy. It's a slur against Los Angeles, really, to find these items on a list of "problems" caused by illegal immigration.

The authors of the chain e-mail and the phony government report fear what Los Angeles has become—a multilingual, multiethnic city with multicultural tastes. They search for information to persuade others to be afraid, but the actual numbers don't quite add up to the big monster they think is out there.

So they make the numbers bigger. Or they just make them up. And they spread them around until all that fear and anger turns into a big hate.

That's what I saw when I let that e-mail open my eyes.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

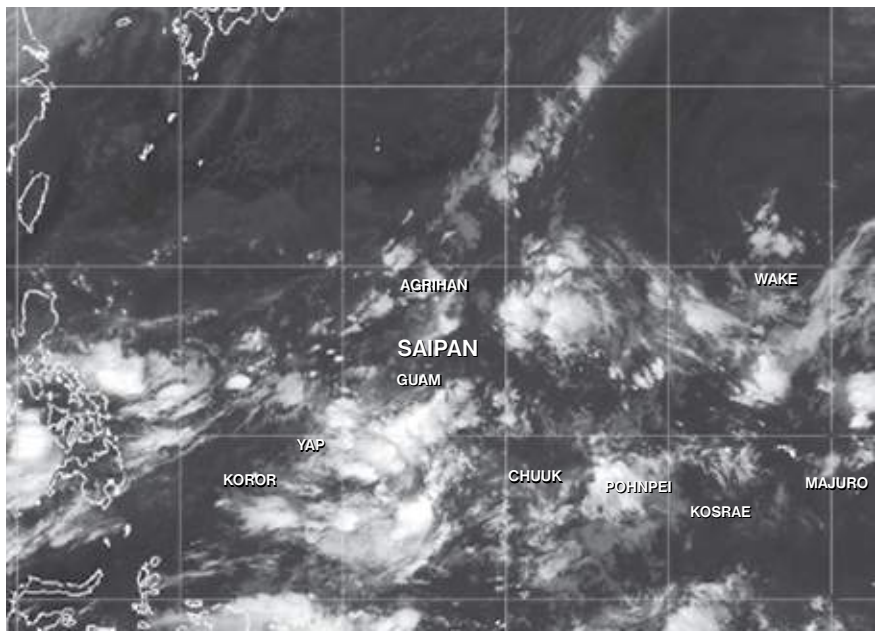
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼50
Beijing	Sunny	▲79	▼50
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲72	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲98	▼68
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲67	▼48
Miami	Thundrshowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Showers	▲76	▼67
Osaka	Showers	▲77	▼66
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼56
Pusan	Cloudy	▲76	▼65
Rome	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Salem	Hot	▲98	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲90	▼55
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼55
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼64
Washington, DC	Showers	▲79	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from 20N130E to 20N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 300 miles northwest of a line from 9N130E to 13N140E to 16N144E. A weak cold front runs from 25N150E southwestward to 20N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of 21N146E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers within 150 miles of a line from EQ141E to 10N147E and within 50 miles of a line from 10N148E to 16N154E to 19N154E to 21N152E. A weak surface trough embedded within trade-wind flow is associated with scattered showers southwest of Wake Island within 50 miles of a line from 13N156E to 14N160E to 16N162E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Pohnpei between 1N and 6N from 153E to 158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:53 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:22 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:10 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:22 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:00 AM	8:37 PM
Wednesday	9:57 AM	9:25 PM
Thursday	10:52 AM	10:16 PM
Friday	11:46 AM	11:07 PM
Saturday	12:37 AM	

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

G-20 security driving away Pittsburgh's bustle

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Nick Mancini Hartner is like a lot of downtown business operators: He doesn't know what to expect if thousands of protesters show up for the Group of 20 economic summit or, for that matter, how many customers will show up either.

That's why he'll try something new during this week's summit at his Mancini's Hearth Baked Bread shop. He'll lock the doors and instead sell a limited menu of fresh breads on the sidewalk out front.

"That way, we can react to whatever's happening," said Hartner, whose mother's family owns the business. "If it's a regular lunch crowd, we can open up the store. If it's slow, we can pull back and come inside and lock up."

Security plans include a vehicle-free, three-block perimeter around the convention center and a ban on most vehicles elsewhere in the city's dense, triangular downtown—leaving protesters and foreign dignitaries to likely experience an emptier-than-normal Pittsburgh when the two-day summit begins Thursday. Commuters will have to park outside downtown and either walk or take mass transit into the business district.

Thousands of protesters and media are expected to come to town for the summit, a gathering of the leaders of the world's 20 top economies.

What's unclear is how many commuters will come downtown. Many businesses are closing or—like Highmark, the health insurance giant that normally has 5,000 employees in the area—having most employees telecommute or work at other offices.

"We tried very hard to create a sense that Pittsburgh did not have to shut down for the G-20 ... but I think the momentum was so strong that people just decided to shut down," said Secret Service spokesman Special Agent Darrin Blackford.

The city, with a population of about 310,000, usually draws about 200,000 commuters on a typical weekday.

In addition to many businesses, the city's public and Catholic schools will be closed along with most city, state and federal offices, cultural centers like the Carnegie museums, many bank branches, and most colleges and universities in the area.

But if President Barack Obama spills food on his tie, Macy's says its downtown department store will be open to sell him a new one.

Amtrak trains will pass through Pittsburgh, but passengers will be allowed only transfer to other trains; no boarding or disembarking here. Greyhound, the bus company, is temporarily moving its city operations to McKeesport, about 10 miles away.

AP

Protesters take part in a march for jobs before the start of the Group of 20 economic summit meeting, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009 in Pittsburgh.

Commuting uncertainty, fear of protests like those that rocked April's G-20 in London and fear of the unknown are all fueling the momentum to stay away, said Robert Arnoni, president and CEO of Specialized Security Response Inc., based in the Pittsburgh suburbs.

At the meeting in London, anti-capitalist demonstrators tried to storm a bank; one man died from internal bleeding after he was pushed to the ground by an officer when he was caught up in demonstrations near another bank.

"The feeling of the unknown is going to breed fear," Arnoni said. "A lot of executives I've talked to say, 'That's the week I'm taking vacation.'"Arnoni's company has regular security guards and ex-military personnel with special operations experience who are in demand for the summit. He said the Pittsburgh Pirates have hired his firm for two games that will be played as scheduled during the summit at PNC Park, just across the Roberto Clemente Bridge from the heavily restricted downtown area.

"People don't really, truly have any clue what to expect when they're going down to a sporting event in a situation like this and I'm sure they're saying, 'Man, is it really worth it?'" Arnoni said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls below $72 in Asia amid weak demand

BANGKOK (AP)—Oil prices fell below $72 a barrel Monday in Asia as high crude stockpiles and weak demand tempered enthusiasm about recent signs of improvement in the world's largest economy. Benchmark crude for October delivery was down 40 cents at $71.64 a barrel by midday Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gave up 43 cents Friday to settle at $72.04 a barrel. The recession has sapped American fuel consumption, and U.S. oil stockpiles are 14 percent larger than last year even as recent data suggests the economy is clawing out of recession.

CAW workers at GM-Suzuki plant OK new contract

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly two-thirds of union workers at a Canadian auto plant jointly owned by General Motors and Suzuki have approved a new contract that would freeze wages and pensions, trim benefits, introduce a monthly health care contribution and reduce break times. However, the new contract at the CAMI Automotive Inc. assembly plant puts base wages on par with General Motors for the first time ever. The agreement also provides for the production of a new model to replace the Chevrolet Equinox and the GMC Terrain in 2014, a crucial element, Canadian Auto Workers President Ken Lewenza said in a statement Sunday. "While these contract changes are difficult for our members, I hope they will help usher in a decade of prosperity for the CAMI facility, which will guarantee good jobs well into the future," Lewenza said.

ComScore, Omniture join up to measure audiences

NEW YORK (AP)—Two of the largest companies involved in tracking and analyzing Web traffic are joining forces to measure digital audiences more comprehensively. The partnership involves comScore Inc. and Omniture Inc., which announced Tuesday that it agreed to a $1.8 billion takeover by Adobe Systems Inc. ComScore and Omniture plan to announce Monday they are launching a unified digital audience measurement system. It will combine Omniture's method of analyzing Web traffic by looking at data collected by Web servers with comScore's estimates of what's happening across the Web using panels of Internet users recruited for the task.

Continental operates first-ever 3rd-country charter flight

Okayama-Palau charter launched Sept. 19

The charter flight schedule is as follows:

	Flight No.	Date	Departure	Arrival	Flight Duration
Out	CO992	September 19	Okayama 10:55	Palau 15:35	4 hours and 40 minutes
Return	CO993	September 23	Palau 05:20	Okayama 10:05	4 hours and 45 minutes

TOKYO—Continental Airlines operated its first-ever third-country charter flight (i.e. charter flights operated by a third country airline) from Japan last Sept. 19.

The charter flight departed from Okayama Airport to Palau, with the return flight departing Palau to Okayama on Sept. 23, using a Boeing 737-800. Approval to operate the service was received from Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Government of Palau.

The operation of third-country charter flights provides new business opportunities for Continental and Palau, expanding on existing non-stop service to Guam, Yap, and Manila.

"It gives me great pleasure that we are operating our first third-country charter flight from Japan as well as our first non-stop Japan-Palau flight," said Charles Duncan, president of Continental Micronesia. "This will also mark the first non-stop operation from a regional Japanese city to Palau by any airline. Depending on customer demand, we will look to proactively move forward with the operation of similar third-country charter flights from locations throughout Japan."

Continental Airlines contracted with two major travel agencies in Japan in connection with the charter, and sales were brisk, with the flight marketed by both agencies selling-out. Flights from Okayama to Palau ordinarily pass through Continental's hub Guam Airport. The charter flight, however, provided non-stop service to Palau, reducing travel time by more than 4 hours.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 2,750 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 133 domestic and 132 international destinations. More than 750 additional points are served via current alliance partners. With more than 43,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with its regional partners, carries approximately 63 million passengers per year.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture. For the sixth consecutive year, FORTUNE magazine named Continental the No. 1 World's Most Admired Airline on its 2009 list of World's Most Admired Companies. For more company information, go to continental.com. ***(PR)***

Fed meeting key to continued market rally

NEW YORK (AP)—If the stock market's seemingly unstoppable march higher is to be believed, the economy is firmly on the road to recovery. Several key events on the economic calendar this week may help determine whether that conviction holds up.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's prediction last week that the worst of the recession is "likely over" helped sustain the markets' gains, which brought the Standard & Poor's 500 index up 2.5 percent through Friday.

This week, the market will get to see what the rest of the Federal Reserve board's key committee thinks, when they hold a two-day meeting to decide whether to keep interest rates at their historically low levels of close to zero.

The Fed will have to raise interest rates eventually in order to keep inflation in check, but when that may happen is one of the hottest topics among investors and economists.

It's widely expected the Fed will keep rates steady at its upcoming meeting, but the statement accompanying the decision will be heavily scrutinized to determine how strong the committee believes the economy is recovering and when that rate change might come.

Meltdown jolts consumers from financial fairyland

CHICAGO (AP)—The stock market bounced back, just as it has for nearly three decades. It just doesn't feel that way.

Last year's financial meltdown knocked the swagger out of Americans' views toward investing. The baby boomers who forged the Reagan bull market; survived the 1987 crash; bought Amazon.com at $2 a share and sold at $100; brushed off the collapse of the dot-com bubble and kept plowing money into their 401(k)s are reassessing what they once believed.

It's hard, after all, to keep the faith in buy-and-hold after the market crashed harder than at any time since the Great Depression. It's hard to trust your financial adviser after Bernard Madoff stole billions from his clients. Most of all, it's hard for a generation that equated personal finance with investing in stocks to accept that the rules have changed.

People are still investing. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 58 percent since hitting a 12-year low on March 9. 401(k) participation rates have held steady.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Yale student's body returned to Calif. for funeral

RESCUE, Calif. (AP)—The body of a Yale student found dead behind a wall on what should have been her wedding day has been returned to Northern California for her funeral. Funeral director Dennis Hamilton of Green Valley Mortuary in Rescue said Sunday that the body of Annie Le was in the funeral home's care. Rescue is about 10 miles from the 24-year-old graduate student's hometown of Placerville. Hamilton said Le's family has requested that all details about the funeral be kept private. A memorial service for Le is planned at her fiance's New York temple later this month. Le vanished from a Yale research building Sept. 8; her body was found hidden in a wall recess five days later. Raymond Clark III is charged with her murder. He has not entered a plea.

Sheriff: Captured inmate duped pal during escape

SEATTLE (AP)—An insane killer was recaptured Sunday, three days after he slipped away from the staff of a mental institution during a trip to a county fair more than 180 miles away from the side of a highway where he eventually was found. With a helicopter overhead and dozens of federal, state and local law enforcement officers swarming around Goldendale, 47-year-old Phillip Arnold Paul walked out to a highway in south-central Washington state just as search personnel arrived at the scene, Klickitat County Sheriff Rick McComas said. "He came out of the brush, onto the roadway, as law enforcement officers were going by," McComas told The Associated Press. "His intent was to voluntarily give himself up because he knew we were going to find him."

Housekeeping chief arrested in NYC hotel killing

NEW YORK (AP)—A housekeeping manager at a luxury hotel next to Central Park has been arrested in the death of a woman who was found in a room strangled with a knife sticking from her neck, police said on Sunday. Longtime hotel employee Derrick Praileu was arrested in the hours after the body of Dubai businesswoman Andree Bejjani was found in a condo at the Jumeriah Essex House, a 44-story art deco tower featuring hundreds of posh rooms, police said. The Manhattan hotel, which is near Broadway and upscale Fifth Avenue shops such as Tiffany & Co. and Bergdorf Goodman, said in a statement on Sunday that an employee had been arrested in Bejjani's death. "Our sincere condolences go out to the victim's family, and we have offered our full support during this difficult time," the statement read.

Obama: Health insurance mandate no tax increase

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says requiring people to get health insurance and fining them if they don't would not amount to a backhanded tax increase.

"I absolutely reject that notion," the president said. Blanketing most of the Sunday TV news shows, Obama defended his proposed health care overhaul, including a key point of the various health care bills on Capitol Hill: mandating that people get health insurance to share the cost burden fairly among all. Those who failed to get coverage would face financial penalties.

Obama said other elements of the plan would make insurance affordable for people, from a new comparison-shopping "exchange" to tax credits.

Telling people to get health insurance is absolutely not a tax increase, Obama told ABC's "This Week."

"What it's saying is, is that we're not going to have other people carrying your burdens for you anymore," said Obama. "Right now everybody in America, just about, has to get auto insurance. Nobody considers that a tax increase."

AP

In this photo provided by CBS, President Barack Obama is seen on a monitor as Republic National Committee chairman Michael Steele, not pictured, appears on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Washington, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009.

Obama faces an enormous political and communications challenge in selling his health care plan as Congress debates how to pay for it all.

He told CBS' "Face the Nation" that he will keep his pledge not to raise taxes on families earning up to $250,000, and that much of the final bill—hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 10 years—can be achieved from savings within the current system. Coming up with the rest remains a key legislative obstacle.

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele said there is no way Obama can achieve his goals without raising taxes.

"He has to. How else do you pay for it?" he told CBS.

Obama put his support behind the idea of taxing employers that offer high-cost insurance plans.

"I do think that giving a disincentive to insurance companies to offer Cadillac plans that don't make people healthier is part of the way that we're going to bring down health care costs for everybody over the long term," Obama said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Obama's network interviews were taped Friday at the White House. He became the first president to appear on five Sunday network shows in the same morning, an extraordinary effort to build public support for his top domestic priority.

The goal is to expand and improve health insurance coverage and rein in long-term costs.

Yet despite so many weeks of speeches, town halls and interviews, Obama said he has found it difficult at times to make a complex topic clear and relevant.

AP enterprise: Fire funds pulled before blaze

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Months before a wildfire burned 280 square miles at the edge of Los Angeles, a little-known group was awarded a $178,000 grant to clear flammable brush and tree limbs to protect a mountain neighborhood in the Angeles National Forest.

The work proposed for 90 acres in Big Tujunga Canyon was never done, and the grant was rescinded two days before the massive blaze ignited Aug. 26. Sixty homes were burned in the rugged canyon, by far the greatest concentration of property damage in the huge wildfire.

The ferocity of the fire makes it difficult to say how many homes, if any, might have been spared if the work had been completed. But failure to do the job offers a glimpse into a quasi-public system that provides little transparency while distributing millions of taxpayer dollars for fire protection on private property.

AP

In this file photo taken Sept. 4, 2009, Lew Johnson, 74, carries a bucket of recovered items as he returns for the first time to the ruins of his home on Stonyvale Road in Big Tujunga Canyon in the Angeles National Forest, in Los Angeles.

The grant came through the California Fire Safe Council Inc., a nonprofit organization that funneled $13.5 million in 2009 to groups and municipalities for fire prevention and safety projects. Most of the money comes from the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies.

It's not clear when the council recognized a problem with the Big Tujunga project, but the grant languished for months. No money ever changed hands before it was pulled back.

"The very best use of fire protection money would have been to clear brush in Big Tujunga Canyon—that's where we lost the homes," said U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., who questioned why a nonprofit group was needed to steer taxpayer dollars to local groups.

As a nonprofit, it is not subject to open government laws even though much of its funding comes from the government.

"When the federal government wants to build a road, you hire a private sector company to build a road, you don't establish a statewide nonprofit," Sherman said. "I don't know why you would need all these intermediary agencies. ... It ought to be transparent, and not just with regard to the canyon but their whole setup."

FBI: Notes on bomb-making in Zazi's handwriting

DENVER (AP)—Investigators said they found notes describing how to make bombs in the handwriting of an airport shuttle driver arrested as part of a terrorism investigation, and they also discovered his fingerprints on materials—batteries and a scale—that could be used to make explosives.

The emerging details show that Najibullah Zazi, who has admitted receiving weapons training from al-Qaida, played a direct role in an alleged terror plot, authorities said court documents released Sunday.

Zazi, 24, has publicly denied being involved in terror plot. Zazi, his father, and an Imam in New York City were arrested late Saturday on charges of making a false statement to the government, though legal experts say more charges could be coming.

Zazi

Zazi's defense team denied reports that Zazi considered a plea deal related to terror charges, and Zazi's attorney, Arthur Folsom, dismissed as "rumor" any notion that Zazi played a crucial role. Zazi's defense team did not respond to repeated attempts to reach them Sunday.

Federal officials in Denver declined to comment.

Zazi admitted to FBI agents that he received instructions from al-Qaida operatives on subjects such as weapons and explosives. Court documents filed in Denver say Zazi was speaking with agents under an agreement where he might avoid prosecution.

He received the training in the federally administered tribal areas of Pakistan, the documents say.

The FBI said it found images of nine pages of handwritten notes on a laptop containing formulas and instructions for making bomb, detonators and a fuse.

Zazi told the FBI that he must have unintentionally downloaded the notes as part of a religious book he downloaded in August. Zazi said he "immediately deleted the religious book within days of downloading it after realizing that its contents discussed jihad."

Obama favors investigation into ACORN activities

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says there should be an investigation into the hidden-camera video involving employees at the activist group ACORN and a couple posing as a prostitute and her pimp.

The two ACORN workers are seen apparently advising the couple to lie about her profession and launder her earnings to get housing aid.

The video is only the latest problem for the group, which had nearly $1 million embezzled by its founder's brother and has been accused of voter registration fraud. The House and Senate voted last week to deny federal funds to ACORN.

Obama told ABC's "This Week" in an interview broadcast Sunday that what he saw on the video "was certainly inappropriate and deserves to be investigated." But the president did not say who should investigate. And he said it is not a major national issue he pays much attention to.

"Frankly, it's not really something I've followed closely," Obama said. "I didn't even know that ACORN was getting a whole lot of federal money."

Asked about the president calling for an investigation, ACORN chief executive Bertha Lewis said Sunday, "Well, that's his opinion."

ACORN said last week it would order its own investigation of the video scandal.

Asia

Philippines: Aquino son gets running mate

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine opposition senator formally agreed Monday to be the running mate of the son of late leader Corazon Aquino in next year's presidential election.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III declared his candidacy two weeks ago, saying he will run for president to continue the legacy of his mother, a democracy icon for standing up to dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

At a gathering Monday of Liberal Party members and allies, Aquino thanked Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, the party's president, for foregoing his own presidential bid to be his running mate.

Both men come from wealthy clans with long history of involvement in Philippine politics. Roxas is a former trade secretary, a U.S.-trained economist and grandson of late Philippine President Manuel Roxas.

"I wholeheartedly accept the responsibility of being Noynoy's partner in his fight for change," Roxas told a cheering crowd. "Thank you for the privilege of joining you and all our countrymen in the fight for decency and integrity in public service."

AP

Philippine Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, right, the only son of former Philippine President Corazon "Cory" Aquino, and Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas, left, flash the "L" sign for Laban, meaning Fight, shortly after publicly announcing to run for president and vice president respectively in the 2010 presidential elections at the historic Club Filipino at Mandaluyong city, east of Manila, Philippines, Monday, Sept. 21, 2009.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who lost the support of the Aquinos and former Cabinet officials like Roxas over charges of corruption and election fraud, is scheduled to step down after serving more than nine years in June 2010. She is not allowed to run for re-election.

The massive outpouring of sympathy for Aquino after her death from colon cancer last month prompted supporters of her son to urge him to run for president in the May 2010 election.

Despite a patchy record during her six years in office, Corazon Aquino remains a well-loved figure and is credited with restoring democratic institutions after Marcos' 20 years of strongman rule. She became a focal point for opposition to Marcos after her husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., was assassinated after returning from exile in 1983.

Police say attack plan vs Pakistani minister foiled

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Police officers foiled a plan to assassinate a regional education minister in northwestern Pakistan when they engaged four militants in a gunbattle Monday that ended with a teenage suicide bomber blowing himself up, police said.

An informant tipped off officers that insurgents had gathered in a government high school in North West Frontier Province after midnight and were planning to kill provincial Education Minister Sardar Hussain Babak and attack government installations and security forces, police officer Noor Jamal Khan said.

Police confronted the militants and a firefight ensued. A loud explosion rocked the building and three of the men escaped, including one who was wounded, Khan told The Associated Press from Tatalai district where the incident occurred.

"We have collected the body parts of the young suicide attacker and these will be sent for identification purposes," said Khan.

No other deaths were reported.

Pakistan's northwest, near the border with Afghanistan, continues to see near-daily violence with attacks by Islamist extremists on security forces and civilians.

On Friday, a suicide bomber plowed his explosives-laden vehicle into a hotel in the town of Kohat, also in North West Frontier Province, killing more than 30 and wounding dozens of others.

The latest violence comes as Pakistani forces continue to clear the Swat Valley and surrounding areas to the southeast of Taliban fighters and their al-Qaida allies.

The military said Sunday that security forces killed eight militants in search operations throughout Swat since Saturday. Twenty-three insurgents also were apprehended and another 22 surrendered. One of the militants killed was a Taliban commander identified as Chamtu Khan, it said in a statement.

The military also announced the death of Sher Muhammad Qasab, a feared Taliban commander known for beheading opponents. He died in custody Sunday from gunshot wounds sustained during a fierce firefight with Pakistani security forces last week. Qasab's three sons were killed in the encounter.

The Pakistan Taliban has been on the run since being cleared from the scenic Swat Valley in July after the military launched a major offensive to retake the region in April.

Army operations in the valley have killed more than 1,800 alleged militants, according to the military. It says 330 Pakistani troops also died during the offensive.

U.S. missile attacks have played a significant role in neutralizing the insurgency. Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud was killed in an Aug. 5 CIA missile strike, plunging the group's leadership into disarray.

US ties, climate change focus of Hatoyama's debut

TOKYO (AP)—Just five days in office, Japan's prime minister was leaving Monday for his debut on the world stage, where he is to meet with the leaders of the U.S., China and Russia and promote his ambitious plan to cut greenhouse gases in a speech at the U.N.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama was scheduled to hold talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao after arriving in New York late Monday, then attend a climate summit at the U.N. that starts Tuesday.

But Hatoyama, whose left-leaning party defeated the long-ruling conservatives in last month's elections, faces his biggest diplomatic test Wednesday, when he meets with President Barack Obama.

Japan has long been one of Washington's closest allies, but Hatoyama's new government has said it wants to pursue a more independent relationship with the U.S., and will not extend the refueling operations in the Indian Ocean in support of American troops in Afghanistan beyond January.

Hatoyama

The U.S. is boosting troop levels in Afghanistan even as international support for the coalition wanes, and is loathe to lose the backing of an ally.

Hatoyama also has said he wants to review the U.S. military presence in Japan, where 50,000 American troops are stationed. But that will wait and he said he doesn't plan to bring up the contentious topic during his initial meeting with Obama, preferring to build "a relationship of trust" with the U.S. president.

Hatoyama is also planning to meet with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in New York on Wednesday.

Discussion topics will include climate change, the global economy and North Korea's nuclear program, a Foreign Ministry official said.

At the United Nations on Thursday, Hatoyama is to address his government's goal of a 25 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020—among the most ambitious cuts proposed by an economic power.

Report: General calls for more Afghanistan troops

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, said in a confidential report that without additional forces, the war against insurgents there will end in failure, *The Washington Post* reported Monday.

McChrystal's grim assessment of the war was published on the Post's Web site, with some portions withheld at the government's request.

"Although considerable effort and sacrifice have resulted in some progress, many indicators suggest the overall effort is deteriorating," McChrystal wrote in his summary.

The report was sent to Defense Secretary Robert Gates in August and is now under review by President Barack Obama, who is trying to decide whether to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan.

While asking for more troops, McChrystal also pointed out "the urgent need for a significant change to our strategy." The U.S. needs to interact better with the Afghan people, McChrystal said, and better organize its efforts with NATO allies.

The Pentagon and the White House are awaiting a separate, more detailed request for additional troops and resources. Media reports Friday and Saturday said McChrystal has finished it but was told to pocket it, partly because of the charged politics surrounding the decision. McChrystal's senior spokesman, Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, told The Associated Press on Sunday that the report is not complete.

"The resource request is being finalized and will be sent forward to the chain of command at some point in the near future," Smith said from Afghanistan.

Obama denied asking McChrystal to sit on the request, but he gave no deadline for making a decision about whether to send more Americans into harm's way.

Obama said in a series of television interviews broadcast Sunday that he will not allow politics to govern his decision. He left little doubt he is re-evaluating whether more forces will do any good.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Jets soar over Beijing as China prepares for Oct 1

BEIJING (AP)—Dozens of fighter jets and other warplanes soared over Beijing on Monday as China stepped up preparations for National Day, tightening security around the city with restrictions on knife sales and plans to ground flights on Oct. 1. The planes and helicopters flew in formation over Chang An Avenue, the major boulevard that runs east-west through the city and across the top of Tiananmen Square. Some of the planes released streams of red, blue and yellow smoke as they flew low over the city in a rehearsal for the Oct. 1 celebration to mark 60 years of communist rule. China has tightened security in recent weeks ahead of the celebrations. In the latest move, the sale of knives has been banned at some stores including hypermarkets such as Wal-Mart and Carrefour, after two separate knife attacks near Tiananmen Square last week, according to store officials and state media.

Thailand's 81-year-old King Bhumibol hospitalized

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's 81-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-serving monarch, has been hospitalized after suffering from a fever and fatigue, the palace announced Sunday. A statement from the Royal Household Bureau, read on the evening television news, said the king was taken to Siriraj Hospital on Saturday night on the advice of his doctors. It said the monarch, who was also suffering from a loss of appetite, was being treated with a glucose drip and antibiotics while doctors diagnosed his illness. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva told reporters earlier that doctors said the king's health gave no cause for concern. Abhisit was one of a number of prominent people who visited the hospital Sunday to present their wishes for the king's recovery.

Philippine troops clash with Abu Sayyaf militants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Clashes erupted Sunday in the southern Philippines when al-Qaida-linked militants resisted attempts by government forces to serve arrest warrants on three of their commanders. Maj. Ramon David Hontiveros, a regional military spokesman, said the militants fired at troops after they cordoned off part of a village on Jolo island where the three commanders and 220 militants were staying. An Abu Sayyaf militant was killed and an undetermined number were wounded, while five soldiers were injured, he said. The hostilities broke out as residents of the predominantly Muslim island celebrated the Islamic festival of Eid-al-Fitr. Troops were trying to serve arrest warrants on commanders Albader Parad, Isnilon Hapilon and Umbra Jumdail, also known as Dr. Abu.

World

Iran's leader says US nuke accusations wrong

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's supreme leader said Sunday that U.S. officials know they are wrongly accusing Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

In Iran's first official reaction to the U.S. decision to scrap a European missile intercept system to defend against threats from Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei claimed President Barack Obama's administration is following the same policies as its predecessor.

"The U.S. officials who talk about Iranian missiles and their danger while saying Iran intends to build a nuclear bomb, they know these words are wrong," Khamenei said in remarks broadcast on state-run radio. "Despite its apparent friendly messages and words" the Obama administration is pursuing the same policy of Iran-phobia, he said.

The U.S. administration has invited Iran to start a dialogue on its nuclear program and gave a vague September deadline for Tehran to take up the offer. The U.S. and five other world powers accepted an offer from Iran earlier this month to hold "comprehensive, all-encompassing and constructive" talks on a range of security issues, including global nuclear disarmament.

AP

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gestures as he concludes a speech, in front of pictures of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, left, and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, right, before Friday prayers at the Tehran University campus in Tehran, Iran, Friday, Sept. 18, 2009.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana will meet Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili on Oct. 1 for talks on Iran's nuclear program. Iran has long maintained the program is purely for peaceful purposes and Khamenei reiterated that Iran considers the production and use of nuclear arms forbidden by the country's Muslim beliefs.

The Obama administration announced earlier this month it was scrapping a Bush-era plan for a missile defense system based in Poland and the Czech Republic. Former President George W. Bush contended the system was needed to shoot down any Iranian missile if Tehran ever developed one with adequate range to threaten the United States or Europe.

U.S. officials have said the decision was based largely on a new U.S. intelligence assessment that Iran's effort to build a nuclear-capable long-range missile would take three years to five years longer than originally thought. The scrapped plan will be replaced by a new one initially geared more to the threat of short- and medium-range missiles from Iran.

Khamenei also addressed Iran's domestic political crisis, warning government supporters against accusing opposition members of wrongdoing without proof. It was the latest indication that the Islamic government may be easing up on critics of the June presidential election.

In a speech marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Khamenei appeared to be working to iron out tensions that have created the country's biggest domestic political crisis since the 1979 Islamic Revolution—the fallout from the disputed June 12 election in which President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won re-election in a race critics say was marred by widespread fraud.

Amid mass trials of supporters of reformist presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi, as well as claims of abuse, coerced confessions and intimidation by security forces targeting the opposition, Khamenei said while a suspect's own confession was admissible, his testimony or accusations could not be used to implicate others in the unrest.

Blair touts 10 million jobs from climate action

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair says he hopes to break the "deadlock" in global climate talks with evidence that 10 million jobs could be created by 2020, if developing nations agree to big cuts in greenhouse gases.

Blair, heading up a climate initiative, released a report that also shows a global climate agreement could increase the world's GDP by 0.8 percent by 2020, as compared with the projected gross domestic product with no climate action.

He was visiting New York ahead of a U.N. climate summit drawing 100 world leaders on Tuesday and a flurry of supporting events in New York City this week.

The events are intended to build support for crafting a new climate deal in Copenhagen, Denmark in December to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, requiring mandatory cuts in atmospheric warming gases, that expires at the end of 2012.

Blair's report, one of a series he is promoting, is based on computer modelling by Cambridge University economists.

Obama has tough task in renewing Mideast talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—Barack Obama will try to get Mideast peacemaking back on track this week in a meeting with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, hoping the weight of the U.S. presidency can resolve a showdown over Israeli settlement construction and get the sides talking again after months of deadlock.

For Obama, it's high-stakes diplomacy that relies on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as key to cracking other world problems. He'll be bringing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas together in New York on Tuesday for their first encounter since Netanyahu took office in March.

Obama faces a tough task. The Israelis and Palestinians have dug in deep to positions that have eluded compromise, despite multiple visits by Washington's special U.S. envoy. Deep divisions among the Palestinians further complicate the process. And it's far from clear whether there is enough common ground between the hawkish Netanyahu and the weakened Abbas.

The Palestinians hope to build a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with east Jerusalem as its capital. Israel captured those territories in 1967. While Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005, Netanyahu has given little indication that he is ready to make territorial compromises in the West Bank and east Jerusalem that would be crucial to reaching an accord.

After the meeting was announced Saturday, Netanyahu's office said he "warmly accepts" the invitation. A senior Israeli official said the meetings in New York were meant to lay the groundwork for negotiations but would not constitute a relaunch of talks.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to articulate government policy on the record.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the Palestinians "felt the intervention of President Obama is a good sign, a sign of commitment on the part of the president."

He said they would talk about "obligations and commitments" and that the Palestinians "believe this (the trilateral meeting) is an opportunity."

Talks on the Palestinian side are being handled by Abbas and his moderate Palestinian Authority. The Islamic militant Hamas group that overran Gaza in 2007 is not a party to the negotiation process.

In Gaza on Sunday, Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh castigated the new U.S. administration and said he wouldn't recognize any accord.

"Any signature will be invalid, and it won't bind the Palestinian people to anything," he said in a sermon in Gaza City at the start of the Muslim Eid al-Fitr holiday.

Obama is eager to mend relations with the Muslim world, which frayed badly over the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He knows Washington's close alliance with Israel goes to the heart of Muslim anger toward the West.

Fleeing heat, bombs, Iraqis go north for holiday

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqis celebrating the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan set off in droves Sunday on family trips to the country's northern Kurdish region, a prized escape from the sporadic violence that still batters the capital and other cities.

Such journeys by road—perilous in years past—have greatly increased because of an overall improvement in security around the country, and this year Kurdish authorities in the self-governing region eased entry procedures and ran TV ads to attract visitors from the rest of Iraq.

For the war-weary traveler, the Kurdish region offers not just a refuge from violence but also reliable electricity, stunning natural beauty, cooler weather and fewer social restrictions.

"We have heard from people who have been there ... that it's like being in a different country," said Haidr Mohammed Ali, a 36-year-old government employee from Baghdad who was taking his wife, two children and his cousin's family to the Kurdish city of Irbil by minibus.

In years past, many Iraqis spent the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday indoors out of fear. Some of those who did venture out were killed by car bombs that tore apart markets and parks. Mosques were emptied of worshippers. Instead of visiting one another, relatives would speak by telephone.

For most Muslims, this year's holiday began Sunday; others will celebrate starting Monday.

Throughout the more than six years of war, Iraqi Kurdistan—which runs its own affairs and is protected by its own militia force known as the peshmerga—has been safer than the rest of the country. It is home to some of the country's most beautiful countryside, attracting even a handful of tourists from the U.S. and Europe to see its waterfalls, mountains and lakes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Medvedev: Israel not planning Iran strike

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says Israeli officials have assured him that they are not planning a military strike on Iran. In an interview with CNN television broadcast Sunday, Medvedev also confirmed that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a secret visit to Moscow this month that included a meeting with the Russian president. In a transcript of the interview released by the Kremlin, Medvedev hedges on the question of whether Russia would support Iran if it were attacked by Israel. Although Russia has no defense agreement with Iran "this does not mean we would like to be or will be indifferent to such an occurrence. This is the worst thing that can be imagined," Medvedev said of a potential Israeli strike.

2 people die in poisoning at German therapy group

BERLIN (AP)—A doctor leading a group therapy session gave participants drugs and other substances that killed two and left 10 hospitalized, Berlin police said Sunday. One person was left comatose and in critical condition. The doctor who led the session has acknowledged giving the participants various substances and drugs during the meeting, Martin Steltner, a spokesman for the Berlin prosecutor's office, told The Associated Press on Sunday. It was not clear whether illegal drugs were given and whether the substances were injected or taken orally. A police statement said autopsies have been carried out on the two dead people but "the chemical-toxicological investigation will take a while."

Black Hawk crash kills US service member in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A Black Hawk helicopter crashed at a major American air base in Iraq, killing one U.S. service member and injuring 12 others, the military said Sunday. The UH-60 Black Hawk went down Saturday night at the Balad Air Base, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. The military said the cause of the crash was under investigation and gave no other details. The helicopter went down on a night of high winds that tore through the area, whipping up a fierce sandstorm that was followed by thunder, lightning and rain.

Overdrive

2010 Hyundai Sonata: Value on four cylinders.
THE WASHINGTON POST.

2010 HYUNDAI SONATA

Value on four cylinders

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

It doesn't surprise me that Hyundai's August sales topped those of its rivals. Nor should it surprise anyone who lately has driven a Hyundai.

Hyundai is the Wal-Mart of car companies. It has turned "value" into a word meaning substantially better than "cheap." It has given dignity to the concept of "bargain."

Anyone doubting that needs only to drive the base version of the 2010 Hyundai Sonata sedan. It has more standard safety equipment than any model in the midsize family sedan class. It offers good, four-cylinder fuel economy without sacrificing acceleration or handling. Fit and finish are among the global car industry's best. So is price, assuming that "best price" means getting the most for money spent.

To prove my point, I eschewed the opportunity to drive a manufacturer-prepared and delivered Sonata in favor of selecting one from a rental car company. I chose Enterprise Rent-A-Car because it is near my home in Virginia and because Enterprise usually carries Hyundai products.

Rental cars aren't the specially prepped babies delivered to automotive journalists by automobile manufacturers. Rentals often are children of lesser care, abused and misused by rental customers and marginally maintained by their corporate owners.

My 2010 Sonata SE had 7,000 miles on the odometer at delivery. Its pale blue-gray fabric seats and fabric-covered door panels bore signs of wear. (It matters not how much or how well you clean light-colored automotive fabrics, some grease and grime will show through.)

But overall fit and finish on my Sonata were excellent. After 7,000 miles of what the Enterprise people said was mostly urban driving, there were no loose fits, no rattles, nothing threatening to come apart at the seams. In fact, the car felt and looked solid.

The Enterprise people eyed me with wonder when I specified a four-cylinder model. The Sonata, a front-wheel drive sedan, also comes with an optional 3.3-liter, 249-horsepower V-6. Real men supposedly prefer the V-6.

But I figured that if anything showed wear in a rental car fleet, it would be one of Hyundai's little, sometimes over-stressed four-cylinder engines. But it turned out that I was the victim of my own shortsightedness. To wit: All Hyundai four-cylinder engines are not the same.

Some, such as the 2-liter 138-horsepower four-cylinder engine in the compact Hyundai Elantra and the 1.6-liter 110-horsepower four-cylinder job in the subcompact Hyundai Accent, primarily are meant for fuel-efficient, urban-suburban commuting. They do not perform particularly well on sustained, high-speed highway runs. Nor are they ideal for climbing mountain roads.

But the 2.4-liter, 175-horsepower four-cylinder engine in the 2010 Sonata was up to all of those tasks. It smoothly delivered acceleration on demand — and it did so at a combined city-highway 27 miles per gallon, 22 mpg in the city and 32 mpg on the highway.

Handling—the way a car moves around curves, the way its body behaves in emergency maneuvers—was certainly acceptable for normal drivers, people who obey rules of the road and who have no need to turn every trip into a race or a test of their prowess behind the wheel.

Braking, employing ventilated front discs and solid discs in the rear, was spot on—as good as anything from the Sonata's more expensive rivals.

Hyundai sold 60,467 cars, crossover utility vehicles and SUVs in the United States last month, 47 percent better than its August 2008 sales, 33 percent better than its July 2009 performance.

In any economy, consumers respond to companies that take the meaning of "value" seriously.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BOTTOM LINE
Hyundai has a solid hit in the 2010 Sonata. It will be interesting to see how the company one-ups itself with the forthcoming, revised 2011 model—keeping quality, innovation and price in perfect harmony. It will be no easy task.

COMPLAINTS
None. Any car that can display quality and performance after being beaten around for thousands of miles in a rental car fleet is a winner.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
It gets very good marks in all three.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Mainstream conservative. It neither offends nor excites.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2010 Hyundai Sonata is a midsize, front-engine, mainstream family sedan with a traditional notchback trunk. It is sold in eight iterations: GLS, GLS PZEV (California-market Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle), SE, SE PZEV, Limited, Limited PZEV, Limited V-6.

ENGINES/ TRANSMISSIONS
The 2010 Sonata driven for this column was equipped with a 2.4-liter, 16-valve inline four-cylinder engine that develops 175 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 168 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 revolutions per minute. It was linked to an optional five-speed automatic transmission. A five-speed manual transmission is standard. A 249-horsepower V-6 engine is optional.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. Luggage capacity is a very decent 16.3 cubic feet. The four-cylinder Sonata can be equipped to tow a maximum 1,500 pounds. Fuel capacity is 17.7 gallons of unleaded.

MILEAGE
You get 22 mpg in the city, 32 mpg on the highway.

SAFETY
Among best in class. Standard equipment includes ventilated front disc brakes/solid rear discs; four-wheel antilock protection; electronic stability and traction control; side-mounted air bags; front and rear head air bags; tire pressure monitoring; front fog lights.

PRICE
The base price on the 2010 base (SE) Hyundai Sonata with optional five-speed automatic transmission is $22,050. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $20,867. Price as tested is $22,770, including a $720 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $21,587. At this writing, there is a $1,000 consumer rebate. Prices are sourced from Hyundai, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

House passes funding for green vehicle research

WASHINGTON (AP)—Targeting more federal money to support the auto industry, the House approved an expansion of government-led research into making cars and trucks more fuel-efficient.

The House plan would allow the Energy Department to spend up to $200 million more each year on research and development for advanced-technology vehicles and auto parts. Lawmakers' aides said the additional $200 million would boost government-supported research in this area to around $550 million if Congress, as expected, funds the request later this year.

The measure passed on a 312-114 vote, attracting dozens of Republican votes, even though some GOP lawmakers questioned its cost.

Wednesday's House action represented the latest move by Congress and the Obama administration to aid the auto industry. The White House stepped in with billions of dollars to rescue General Motors and Chrysler and led the companies through bankruptcy, and Congress approved $25 billion last year to help the industry retool assembly plants to meet tougher fuel economy standards.

Congress also created a $3 billion Cash for Clunkers program of incentives that successfully spurred new car sales over the summer.

Fuel-efficient technology is in great demand because of higher gasoline prices and the expectation of tightening auto regulations. Administration officials on Tuesday released plans to raise the gas mileage standards to 35.5 miles per gallon by 2016 and link greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy requirements.

Rep. Gary Peters, D-Mich., who sponsored the green vehicle technology bill, said "there is no doubt that in the years ahead more Americans will be driving hybrids, plug-in hybrids, battery electric vehicles, and cars and trucks powered by hydrogen fuel cells."

"The only question is whether these new technologies will be researched, developed and manufactured here in the United States, creating American jobs, or whether this technology will be built overseas," Peters said.

The plan's cost concerned some Republicans. Rep. Paul Broun, R-Ga., wanted to freeze the potential funding amounts through 2013 and cut funding in 2014 but his plan was defeated. Broun noted that Congress was already spending billions of dollars to help the auto industry.

"Simply throwing money at a problem is never a solution," Broun said.

The bill would authorize $2.9 billion to the Energy Department to boost the research over five years. It would push the government to team up with companies and universities to conduct research on technologies such as batteries for hybrid vehicles, electric cars, hydrogen fuel cells and infrastructure for the electric grid.

The legislation also would create a research program for advanced technologies for medium- to heavy-duty commercial trucks and transit vehicles, while specifying that the government should partner with a diverse group of companies, non-governmental organizations and academic groups, including those which have not previously worked on government-sponsored research and development.

The Energy Department in June announced it would lend $5.9 billion to Ford Motor Co. and about $2.1 billion to Nissan Motor Co. and Tesla Motors Inc. to upgrade facilities to build fuel-efficient vehicles. Battery manufacturers were awarded $2.4 billion in federal grants in August to develop electric vehicles and batteries. Other auto suppliers have been seeking similar partnerships with the government.

Bob McKenna, president and CEO of the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association, wrote in a letter to lawmakers on Monday that the legislation "will allow motor vehicle suppliers to make the highly efficient components and technologies that will be necessary for future cutting-edge vehicles."

Life & Style

‘Mad Men,’ ‘30 Rock’ take top series Emmys

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—”Mad Men” and “30 Rock” led a pack of Emmy winners who successfully defended their titles at Sunday’s show, while Australian Toni Collette of Showtime’s “United States of Tara” was honored as best lead actress in a comedy series for her role as a mother with multiple personalities.

“Wow, this is insanely confronting,” said a beaming Collette. She thanked series creator Diablo Cody, the Oscar-winning screenwriter of “Juno.”

AMC’s glossy 1960s Madison Avenue saga “Mad Men,” which last year became the first basic cable show to win a top series award, won the best drama trophy for a second time.

“It is an amazing time to work in TV,” said “Mad Men” creator Matthew Weiner. “And, I know that everything is changing, but I’m not afraid of it because I feel like all these different media is just more choice and more entertainment. It’s better for the viewers in the end and I’m glad to be a part of it.”

NBC’s “30 Rock,” a satirical take on life inside a TV variety show, was honored for the third time as best comedy series, while star Alec Baldwin won his second award as best comedy actor.

“We want to thank our friends at NBC for keeping us on the air ... even though we are so much more expensive than a talk show,” said “30 Rock” creator and star Tina Fey, referring to Jay Leno’s new daily prime-time comedy show, which NBC likes to note is cheaper to produce than a scripted series.

Baldwin, accepting his acting trophy for “30 Rock” from “Brothers & Sisters” star Rob Lowe, joked, “I’ll be honest with you. I’d trade this to look like him.”

The BBC’s Dickens adaptation “Little Dorrit,” co-produced with PBS’s Boston affiliate WGBH, won for best miniseries as well as for cinematography, art direction and costumes.

Ireland was well represented as Irish actress Dearblha Walsh won for directing “Little Dorrit” and Irish actor Brendan Gleeson won for playing Winston Churchill in the HBO miniseries “Into the Storm.”

Glenn Close’s performance as a ruthless trial attorney on “Damages” and Bryan Cranston’s turn as a meth-making, cancer-stricken teacher on “Breaking Bad” were honored with the top drama series acting Emmys, the second consecutive trophies for both.

“Oh my goodness,” exclaimed Cranston. “I’m a poor kid from the valley. I don’t know what I’m doing up here. I feel like Cinderfella.”

Close called it a “huge privilege” to be part of entertainment community, then tweaked her show’s writers.

Her role is “maybe the character of my lifetime, depending on what they do this season,” Close said.

Michael Emerson, who plays the cruelly devious Ben on “Lost,” and Cherry Jones, the stalwart U.S. president on “24,” were honored as best supporting actors in drama series.

“Wowza,” Jones said. Emerson accepted his award for what he called “the role of my lifetime.”

Collette’s victory deprived Fey of “30 Rock” of winning a second consecutive award in the category. But Fey took the stage a few moments later to acknowledge a guest actor award she received for her Sarah Palin impersonation on “Saturday Night Live.”

Kristin Chenoweth of “Pushing Daisies” and Jon Cryer of “Two and a Half Men” won supporting acting Emmys for their comedies and proved that acceptance speeches can be entertaining.

“I’m not employed now so I’d like to be on ‘Mad Men.’ I also like ‘The Office’ and ‘24,’” said Chenoweth, alternating between tears and smiles as she accepted for her canceled ABC series. “Thank you so much to the academy for recognizing a show that’s no longer on the air.”

Backstage, the Tony Award-winning Chenoweth noted that she is appearing on an upcoming episode of Fox’s show “Glee,” has shot two movies and is doing a series of concerts.

Cryer, whose series is the most-watched comedy on TV, brought a wry tone to his speech.

“I used to think that awards were just shallow tokens of momentary popularity, but now I realize they are the only true measure of a person’s worth as a human being,” Cryer said.

“The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” won the trophy for best variety, music or comedy series, its seventh in a row.

“Grey Gardens,” the story of a reclusive mother and daughter who were relatives of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, won for best TV movie.

Neil Patrick Harris, the show’s host as well as a nominee, lost to Cryer for his role on “How I Met Your Mother” but won on-stage accolades for his emcee work, including a heartfelt compliment from Jon Stewart.

Harris, who moved the show along with good-natured humor, started the evening on a lively note, performing “Don’t Touch That Remote,” a custom-made tune from Broadway composers Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman of “Hairspray” fame. Harris implored viewers to stay glued to the show and called attention to some of the stars in the house.

“I see legends galore, Lange, Barrymore,” Harris sang to Jessica Lange

See MAD MEN on Next Page

AP

The cast and crew of “Mad Men” to include Executive Producer and creator Matthew Weiner,third from left, pose with best series drama award backstage at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP

The cast and crew of “30 Rock” to include Tina Fey, center, and Alec Baldwin, third from left, pose backstage with the award for best comedy series at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Actors Kanye-cracking at the 61st Emmys

Heard at the 61th annual Primetime Emmy Awards:

“It is an amazing time to work in TV. And, I know that everything is changing, but I’m not afraid of it because I feel like all these different media is just more choice and more entertainment. It’s better for the viewers in the end and I’m glad to be a part of it.”

—Matthew Weiner, creator and executive producer of “Mad Men,” accepting the award for outstanding drama series.

“I have to acknowledge my buddy (writer) Robert Carlock who is the engine that keeps the show going. It’s killing him. I mean, look at him. Robert, I want to work with you every day until I put you in the ground.”

—Tina Fey, accepting the award for outstanding comedy series for “30 Rock.”

“Looking at who we lost this past year, you think what a legacy we have and what power we have.”

—Glenn Close, accepting the award for lead actress in a drama series for “Damages.”

“Lee Trevino was struck by lightning twice and now I know how he feels. I’m glad Glenn Close is a woman.”

—Bryan Cranston, accepting the award for lead actor in a drama series for “Breaking Bad.”

“All right, it’s my job to keep things moving tonight. I’m here to ensure everything runs smoothly. Here’s hoping Kanye West likes ‘30 Rock.’”

—Host Neil Patrick Harris, referring to the rapper’s recent stage invasion at the MTV Video Music Awards.

“I’m not employed now so I’d like to be on ‘Mad Men.’ I also like ‘The Office’ and ‘24.’

—Kristin Chenoweth, accepting the award for supporting actress award in a comedy series for “Pushing Daisies” that was canceled.

“I feel like I’m living out a character actor’s dream. One day I flew to Hawaii to do a guest spot and four years later it’s become the role of my lifetime.”

—Michael Emerson, accepting the award for supporting actor in a drama series for “Lost.”

“You know, I used to think that awards were just shallow tokens of momentary popularity. But now, I realize they are the only true measure of a person’s real worth as a human being.”

—Jon Cryer, accepting the award for supporting actor in a comedy series for “Two and a Half Men.”

“I’ll be honest I’d trade this to look like him. I really would, actually.”

—Alec Baldwin, referring to presenter Rob Lowe, accepting the award for lead actor in a comedy series for “30 Rock.”

“I will make my speech as brief as possible in the hope that it won’t be interrupted by a congressman or a rapper.”

—Ken Howard, accepting the award for supporting actor in a miniseries or a movie for “Grey Gardens.”

“This part was a gift and they don’t come around that often for me anymore.”

—Jessica Lange, accepting the award for lead actress in a miniseries or a movie for “Grey Gardens’

“The thing about Oscars and the Golden Globes is they got film stars there. With their jaw lines and chiseled looks, making me feel bad. But in this room, I’m probably above average.”

—presenter Ricky Gervais

“These shows, we’ve all been to a lot of these, they usually suck. And you’ve been very good.”

—Jon Stewart, who won for variety, music, or comedy series for “The Daily Show With Jon Stewart,” to host Neil Patrick Harris.

Harris is a prize as host of Emmy Awards broadcast

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Isn't it time to name Neil Patrick Harris to a Cabinet position as Secretary of Cool?

As host of Sunday's primetime Emmy broadcast, he offered up persuasive evidence that he can bring new waves of cool to the stalest of institutions—like the Emmys.

Aired live by CBS from the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, the Emmycast with Harris in charge not only was remarkably stylish, fun and brisk but could even make viewers forget last year's disastrous format with five hosts, none of whom could rise to the occasion.

Harris surely did, from the broadcast's first moments as he launched into an up-tempo welcome titled "Put Down the Remote." Lyrics included the requests, "Don't touch that dial. It's been quite a while since the dial was in style, but you know what I mean," and, "Don't jump online, cause this fine mug of mine needs a huge high-def screen."

Harris, who co-stars on the CBS sitcom "How I Met Your Mother" among his portfolio of show-biz activities, took on co-producer duties for the Emmycast, which obviously contributed to his comfort level—and that of viewers.

The show seemed to fit him like his tailored dinner jacket, but without ever being about him.

Even when he wasn't smooth, he was smooth.

"It's not awkward, I won't let it get awkward," he told the audience at one point when a problem cropped up. "A change of plans: We're going to go a little bit faster tonight."

Not that there wasn't time to make fun of the TV medium, and its shaky status in the Internet age.

Harris briefly "hijacked" the broadcast for a sketch in his alter ego as Dr. Horrible, the mad scientist of "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog," last year's online musical comedy in which he starred.

"Television is dead," sneered Dr. Horrible. "The future of home entertainment is the Internet. Why watch something like this (he spread his arms grandly) when you can see it like this," whereupon he snapped his fingers and the screen shrunk to postage-stamp size).

The broadcast was efficiently divided into five genres (including reality, drama, variety, and miniseries and movies), and got things off in frisky fashion with comedy.

On hand with John Hamm of "Mad Men" to present the night's first trophy, "30 Rock" star Tina Fey asked viewers "to linger in this magical time at the beginning of the evening when everyone is still a winner and ("Family Guy" creator) Seth MacFarlane is only pretty drunk." Cut to shot of MacFarlane in the hall, wearing a huge appreciative grin.

Speaking of "Family Guy," the Emmycast made one possible misstep. Playing off of the unlikely nomination of the Fox animation series in the best comedy series category (it lost), a film clip from "Family Guy" showed baby Stewie beating the family's talking dog Brian to a bloody pulp. Reason? Brian had confided to the demonic Stewie that he was voting for a rival show in that category.

AP

Neil Patrick Harris entertains during the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

"Family Guy" fans were probably amused at recognizing the scene repurposed from a classic episode of the series, with new dialogue inserted for the occasion. Everybody else, caught unprepared for all that cartoon blood and violence, was probably shocked.

As usual, a highlight of the broadcast was the category for comedy and variety writing—that is, the clever way each nominated show listed its writers. Comedy Central's "Daily Show With Jon Stewart" used a "Cash for Clunkers" theme; the writers for "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" appeared as Facebook friend requests; NBC News' Brian Williams recited the "Saturday Night Live" writers from his anchor desk.

Presenter Ricky Gervais was, as usual, helplessly hilarious. He razzed the Emmycast, which in recent years has had eroding viewership. After cracking an industry in-joke, he noted it was "just for the 5,000 people in this room—not for the 5,000 people watching at home." Ouch!

But the 5,000 (or however many) people who were watching at home Sunday surely had a good time.

"It was better than last year, anyway," Gervais said. Maybe the best ever. For that, thank Neil Patrick Harris.

MAD MEN

From Page 18

and Drew Barrymore, later adding, "But like next season on 'Idol' I'm not seeing Paula Abdul." Meanwhile, the camera panned to an empty seat at the Nokia Theatre.

Harris' winning turn as host also was lauded by Jeff Probst, honored as best reality show host for CBS' "Survivor." Probst was one of the five reality hosts who emceed the Emmys last year and received scathing reviews.

"Neil Patrick Harris, this is how you host the Emmys. Nice job," Probst said, pointing his Emmy toward him.

"The Amazing Race" won its seventh consecutive Emmy in the outstanding reality-competition category, once again turning top-rated "American Idol" into an also-ran.

An exception to the upbeat mood came in clips from animated series "Family Guy," which showed the dog character Brian beaten bloody, followed by a reality show snippet with barely concealed swearing.

In a bid to give viewers reasons to stick with the show, CBS put advisories on-screen of upcoming moments, including Justin Timberlake's appearance as a presenter.

The TV academy, meanwhile, hoped to avoid an unwanted rerun at the 61st Annual Primetime Emmy Awards: paltry viewership. The 2008 ceremony was the least-watched ever with an audience of 12.3 million.

Acclaimed but low-rated series like "Mad Men" are seen as one reason viewers bypassed the awards, so major categories were expanded to increase the odds for more popular fare. There were as many as seven nominees per category, compared with the traditional five.

Harris and Emmy executive producer Don Mischer promised to keep the scheduled three-hour ceremony snappy, but they had less room to maneuver than planned. A TV academy proposal to pre-tape some acceptances and show them in a truncated version—gaining time for something more entertaining than speeches—was quashed by industry opposition.

Harris also was a supporting actor nominee for "How I Met Your Mother."

HBO went into the ceremony as the awards leader after last weekend's Creative Arts Primetime Emmys ceremony for technical and other achievements. The channel earned 16 trophies, followed by NBC with 11 and Fox and ABC with eight awards each. CBS, PBS and Cartoon Network had six each.

After Sunday, HBO emerged with a leading 21, followed by NBC with 16, ABC with 11 and Fox with 10. CBS and PBS had nine each.

Death and Funeral Announcement

†LUCIA CASTRO BARCINAS

(Chia'/Amma)

Of Songsong Village, Rota, was called to her eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on Saturday, September 19, 2009, 8:00 a.m., at the Commonwealth Health Center, at the age of 69.

In her new life, she now joins her love ones who have gone before her:
Parents: *†Jesus Villagomez Castro & †Ana Taimanao Castro*
Parents-in-law: *†Antonio Blanco Barcinas & †Regina Songsong Barcinas*
Sisters, and In-Laws: *†Dolores C. & †Juan Q. Muna, †Maria C. & †Domingo Atalig, †Martha T. Castro, †Veronica T. Manglona, †Francisco Taimanao, †Juan S. Barcinas, †Bienvinido S. Barcinas, †Rosario S. Barcinas, and †Tito S. Barcinas*
Maternal Aunt: *†Martha B. Sablan*

Lucia's compassion and wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her:

Husband: Abel Songsong Barcinas

Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren:
Ricardo C. and Clarita A. Barcinas
Clint A. Barcinas and Lynn B. Duenas
Ricalyn A. Barcinas and Victorino Mendiola
Rianalyn A. Barcinas and Joe Lizama (Ellie Juanee, Floren Kassil)
Chuck A. Barcinas
Elizabeth C. Barcinas and Pete S. Hocog
Abel B. Hocog
Flavian B. Hocog and Antonio Magofna
Lucille B. Hocog and Gerald A. Ogo
Peter B. Hocog
Patricia B. and Jose T. Calvo
Joeweda and John Diaz (Jeremiah, Clara Grace)
Nicolas and Doris T. Calvo (Concia Deuana)
Margarita C. Barcinas and Michael T. King
Michaela Marie B. King
Micca Ana B. King
Edward C. and Delfina M. Barcinas
Lucretia M. Barcinas
Edward M. Barcinas, Jr.
Edmund M. Barcinas
Luisa C. Barcinas and Erlyn Quinto
Martha C. Barcinas and Mark A. Hocog
Marnecia Hope B. Hocog
Marco Edward B. Hocog
Regina C. Barcinas

Reared Daughters: *Shirley Villanueva and Regina Quiming*
Special Friend: *Joaquin and †Monica Lizama & Children*
Caretakers: *Benita Parallag and Edna Saclayan*
Sisters and In-Law: *Rita C. and Felix Flawau & Children, Rosa A. Taitano & Children*
Brother and Sisters, In-Laws: *Florence S. Barcinas & Children, Ramon S. Barcinas and Matilde Takai & Children, Emmy Barcinas & Children, Maria Barcinas & Children, Francisca M. Barcinas & Children.*

She is additionally survived by those she lovingly cared for, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, family and friends.

Holy rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m., at Kristo Rai Church, Saipan and at 8:00 p.m., at her residence in Annex-F, Songsong Village, Rota.

Memorial services and viewing on Saipan will be on Friday, September 25. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz at 7:30 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church. Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, September 27, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Rota Health Center at 3:00 p.m. to her residence. Responso Service will be at 3:30 p.m. followed by Holy Rosary. The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, September 28, 2009, 10:00 a.m., at the San Francisco De Borja Church. Interment Service will follow at the San Jose Cemetery, Songsong Village, Rota.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Abel S. Barcinas, Children & Family

Pregnant Heidi Klum turns heads at Emmy red carpet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The firefighters working the red carpet at Sunday's 61st annual Emmy Awards were worried that at least one reality TV star might be going home with more than just a trophy.

"Hey, did you see Heidi Klum? She's like 8 months pregnant. So you be ready, you might have to deliver," fire Inspector Jim Fisher said to his colleague Craig Hancock as they and other authorities hustled Emmy VIPs into the Nokia Theatre.

A bystander asked Fisher if he knew what Klum, the host of "Project Runway," was wearing.

"Don"t ask a guy wearing polyester that kind of question," replied Fisher, dressed in a white uniform shirt and fire-resistant gray pants.

"What about me? This is wool," piped up Sgt. Pete Foster, who was wearing a wool shirt.

The Emmy trophy table has moved up in the world.

The offstage stop containing dozens of real Emmys, not the fake ones recipients are handed onstage, used to be located in a nondescript section of a parking garage. This year it's in an air-conditioned, red-carpeted section of the Nokia Theatre roof.

Emmy winners exit the theater through a back door, then head for the table, where they trade in their generic trophy for one of the real ones. A nameplate with their name and the category in which they were honored will arrive in the mail later.

Jon Cryer, one of the night's early winners, made a big production of kissing the Emmy he won for supporting actor in "Two and a Half Men," but the trophy he smooched wasn't his—it was one of the props handed out on stage.

Later, he raced past the trophy table with it as his publicist promised, "We'll be back!"

AP

Heidi Klum and Seal arrive at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

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All About Steve
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Mary Horowitz is a cruciverbalist–a crossword puzzle constructor. Her brain spins at warp speed with an endless stream of arcane information. She can come up with the perfect word–and dozens with the same meaning–at a moment's notice, but "normal" behavior eludes her. For Mary, nothing is typical, especially relationships. When she is set up on a blind date with handsome cable-news cameraman Steve, Mary thinks the chemistry is undeniable–that Steve is "the one." Steve, on the other hand, thinks Mary is crazy.

And I Love You So
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR
Synopsis
When Lara (Bea Alonzo) lost her husband of five months, she didn't think she could go on living, much less love again. Now, seven months later, Lara is still in mourning. Everytime a loved one died, someone else was there to cushion the blow. When her mother died when she was 14, it was her father. When her father followed six years later, there was the rest of the family. But when her husband died, no one could offer any consolation–not her siblings, nor her in-laws, not her friends. Not only was the love of her life, he had also become her life. It would have been better is she had died with him.

Whiteout
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Kate Beckinsale, Gabriel Macht
Action, Thriller, Crime • Rated R
Synopsis
Carrie Stetko, the lone U.S. Marshal assigned to Antarctica, is investigating the continent's first murder, which draws her into a shocking mystery. Now, with only three days until winter, Carrie must solve the crime before Antarctica is plunged into darkness and she is stranded with the killer.

Sorority Row
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Briana Evigan, Leah Pipes
Thriller, Horror, Remake • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Gamer
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunnday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

G.I. JOE
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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EMMY BRIEFS

After win, Chenoweth checked out for migraine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A publicist for Kristin Chenoweth says paramedics checked out the actress after her Emmy win, but that she's doing fine. Meghan Prophet says Chenoweth felt a migraine coming on after winning an Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a comedy series and doing press interviews. Prophet says Chenoweth laid down and onsite paramedics checked on the former "Pushing Daisies" actress. Prophet says Chenoweth is feeling better and may take part in some of the post-Emmy activities. The 41-year-old actress was emotional during her acceptance speech and in press interviews. "Pushing Daisies" has been canceled, but Chenoweth told reporters she has been busy, filming movies and guest starring on an upcoming episode of Fox's show "Glee."

7 best reality Emmys in a row for 'Amazing Race'

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Amazing Race" extends its winning streak to an amazing seven years as it scores another Emmy in the outstanding reality competition category. The CBS globe-trotting contest beat out rivals Sunday night including Fox's "American Idol," ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," as well as "Project Runway" and "Top Chef," both on Bravo. The show, which premiered in September 2001 and is about to begin its 15th cycle, is hosted by Phil Keoghan.

'Survivor's' Probst wins best reality host Emmy

NEW YORK (AP)—"Survivor" star Jeff Probst takes home his second Emmy as best reality show host. Probst won out Sunday night over Heidi Klum of Bravo's "Project Runway," Ryan Seacrest of Fox's "American Idol," Tom Bergeron of ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," Phil Keoghan of CBS' "Amazing Race," and Tom Colicchio and Padma Lakshmi of Bravo's "Top Chef." Probst won the Emmy in that category last year. He has been host of "Survivor" since it premiered in 2000.

AP

Kristin Chenoweth kisses the award for best supporting actress in a comedy series for "Pushing Daisies" backstage at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Jon Stewart's 'Daily Show' takes top variety award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jon Stewart and his writing staff are owners of new Emmy Awards. Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" was named the best comedy or variety show in the annual Emmy Awards. Blessed with an abundance of material during a presidential election, the show beat out David Letterman's "Late Show," "Saturday Night Live," "Real Time With Bill Maher" and "The Colbert Report." Stewart's writing staff also won for best writing in a comedy or variety series, making it a clean sweep. As he accepted the award, Stewart joked that it gave him and his staff time to go backstage and check out the NFL football game, being shown on another network.

John Travolta may testify at Bahamas trial

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—John Travolta is among the potential witnesses at a Bahamas trial beginning Monday for two people accused of trying to extort $25 million from the movie star, according to court officials.

An ambulance driver and a former Bahamas senator allegedly targeted Travolta after his chronically ill son died in the Bahamas. They are accused of demanding money in exchange for not publicizing a document related to 16-year-old Jett Travolta's treatment.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Monday and the actor is on a list of people prosecutors could call to testify, Bahamas Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez said.

Travolta

The trial in the capital, Nassau, returns the spotlight to the courts in this island chain off the Florida coast that has become familiar with celebrity cases. Last year, a jury inquest found the 2006 death of Anna Nicole Smith's 20-year-old son, Daniel, in the Bahamas was the result of an accidental drug overdose.

The Travolta case began with an extortion complaint that the actor filed with Bahamas police in January, days after his son died at a family vacation home on Grand Bahama island. Jett Travolta had a history of seizures and was found unconscious in a bathroom. A Bahamas undertaker said the death certificate listed "seizure" as the cause of death. Former Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater and paramedic Tarino Lightbourne, who was among those who tried to revive Jett after he collapsed Jan. 2, have pleaded innocent to charges including conspiracy to commit extortion.

The pair allegedly threatened Travolta with a document that would have released emergency responders from liability if the family refused an ambulance. However, police said that did not happen in Jett's case. It is unclear why the pair allegedly believed Travolta would pay to keep the document from being released.

Both defendants have been free on bail.

Chance of Meatballs' tops weekend box-office

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP

In this film publicity image released by Columbia/Sony Pictures Animation, the characters Sam Sparks, voiced by Anna Faris, and Flint Lockwood, voiced by Bill Hader, are shown in a scene from Columbia Pictures' "Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs."

The forecast was bright at the box-office for "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," which earned $30.1 million to lead this weekend's films.

Sony's 3-D animated family comedy was adapted from the popular 1978 children's book by Judi and Ron Barrett. Despite schools being back in session, the film still was able to draw kids and their parents to the multiplexes.

"The meatballs have cleared, so to speak," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "It really is a feature where everything aligned perfectly."

That's good news for other adaptations of classic children's books on the horizon, namely the much anticipated big screen version of Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are." The Spike Jonze directed adaptation will be released Oct. 16.

"It really does pave the way for a really strong opening for that film," said Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "It's such a beloved book that the anticipation is really high."

He added that the strength of "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" showed that 3-D is proving to be a significant draw for moviegoers. The film also was released on IMAX at 127 venues, which accounted for $2.5 million, or 8 percent of its box-office.

Steven Soderbergh's "The Informant!" came in second with $10.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That was slightly better than expected for the Warner Bros. comedy, which stars Matt Damon as a bipolar whistle blower.

1. "**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs,**" $30.1 million.
2. "**The Informant!**" $10.5 million.
3. "**I Can Do Bad All By Myself,**" $10 million.
4. "**Love Happens,**" $8.5 million.
5. "**Jennifer's Body,**" $6.8 million.
6. "**9,**" $5.5 million.
7. "**Inglourious Basterds,**" $3.6 million.
8. "**All About Steve,**" $3.4 million.
9. "**Sorority Row,**" $2.5 million.
10. "**The Final Destination,**" $2.4 million.

Last week's box-office topper, Tyler Perry's "I Can Do Bad All By Myself," saw a 57 percent drop for Lionsgate. It still earned $10 million, good enough for third place. That brought its cumulative total to $37.9 million.

Jennifer Aniston's "Love Happens" (Universal) came in fourth with $8.5 million, suggesting that audiences may be tiring of the actress in romantic comedies. It's her third film this year.

Coming in a distant fifth was "Jennifer's Body," the R-rated horror film written by Diablo Cody, the scribe of "Juno" fame. It earned just $6.8 million for 20th Century Fox. "Jennifer's Body" is viewed most significantly as a test of its star, Megan Fox, to headline a movie.

"You always hope for more, but it's a modestly budgeted film that will ultimately be profitable for us," said Chris Aronson, senior vice president of domestic distribution for Fox.

Dergarabedian said the number was somewhat low for what looked like "a fan boy's dream," but said the R-rating and niche potential of "Jennifer's Body" wasn't ideal for a coming-out party for the actress.

"It may be a matter of just choosing the right projects for her," said Dergarabedian. "She's trying to find a world beyond 'Transformers,' and she will. She's young and has a lot of promise."

On the whole, it was an "up" weekend for Hollywood, said Dergarabedian. The weekend's total box-office gross was approximately $100 million, which compares favorably with the $88 million that was made on the corresponding weekend last year.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Cubans flock to iconic plaza for 'peace concert'

HAVANA (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of Cubans flocked to sprawling Revolution Plaza on Sunday for an open-air "peace concert" headlined by Colombian rocker Juanes, an event criticized by some Cuban-Americans who say the performers were lending support to the island's communist government simply by showing up.

Miguel Bose of Spain, one of the other singers in the 5 1/2-hour concert, announced the crowd size at 1.15 million—which would be one of every 10 Cubans. It was impossible to independently verify that number, but Juanes' visit to Cuba was clearly the biggest by an outsider since Pope John Paul II's 1998 tour.

Hundreds of public buses ferried young and old to the concert site, and the government laid on even more transportation, hoping for a large turnout.

Most concertgoers wore white—to symbolize peace—and some held up signs reading "Peace on Earth" and "We Love You Juanes."

Puerto Rican singer Olga Tanon opened the concert with a loud shout-out to the crowd, packed under a broiling Havana sun.

Colombia's Juanes holds a Cuban flag as he performs during the "Peace Without Borders" concert at the Revolution square in Havana, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009.
AP

"Together, we are going to make history," she said as the plaza erupted in cheers.

Juanes came on stage three hours into the show, gazing out at the multitudes in evident disbelief. "I can't believe what I am seeing with my own eyes," he said.

Weighty issue is at root of couple's unhappiness

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Ingmar" and I have been married—on and off—for 12 years. We have married each other twice. Ingmar loves "big" women.

The last time we separated was three years ago, after I lost 105 pounds. I lost the weight because my doctor said I had to for health reasons. When I first met Ingmar, I let him know my large size was not normal for me and was a result of some medications I was on.

After my weight started dropping, Ingmar told me I "grossed him out" and I was starting to resemble a "little girl." We have had no physical contact in four years, and we sleep in separate rooms. He often goes off by himself for two or three days at a time. I know he isn't involved with another woman because he can't do anything anymore and he's not willing to fix it.

I feel like a roommate instead of a wife. We don't eat together, watch TV together or kiss anymore. Although I care for my husband, I'm not in love with him anymore. But I'm scared of going out in the "dating world" again. I'm 46 and no longer a "spring chicken," but I crave affection. What do I do?

AT A CROSSROADS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR AT A CROSSROADS: The dating world is no lonelier than the one you're living in now—but at least in the dating world there is hope that you'll connect with someone.

Your husband is punishing you for something that isn't your fault. The fact that he "can't do anything anymore" with you doesn't guarantee that he can't do something with someone else. Offer Ingmar the option of marriage counseling to see if he's capable of an attitude adjustment. But if he's not, recognize that even though you may no longer be a pullet, your best chance at happiness might be to fly the coop.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter, "Daisy," had some really bad relationships in the past and held on to them far too long. At 33, she finally met a man, "Melvin," who was good to her and fun to be with. We were relieved that she had finally made a right choice.

Melvin was divorced with a son. He told Daisy he was a police officer who retired early because of the stress, and regaled her with stories about the many outrageous incidents he's been involved in. They married and now have a new baby. Daisy is happy, loves being a wife and mother, and we were pleased that she has what she always wanted.

My husband and I became suspicious about some of Melvin's stories about the wild and crazy situations that had happened to him on a daily basis. In them, he was always defending helpless people against brutal attackers, saving people in imminent danger, and he was always the hero. My husband decided to check out Melvin's claim of having been a cop. We were shocked and sickened to learn that he never was. All of his stories are lies.

I want to tell Daisy, but I'm not sure how or when. They live in another state, far from us. I don't want to expose him while she is not near us. It will crush her. But our daughter is married to a stranger! Everything Melvin told her about himself is a lie. How should we handle this?

HEARTBROKEN MOM

DEAR MOM: First of all, your husband should finish what he started. If Melvin wasn't a police officer, what was he? Is he really divorced? How many times? Is his name really Melvin? Has he done time?

Once you have accurate information, you and your husband should pay your daughter a visit—proof in hand. How she chooses to handle things from then on will be her decision. But from where I sit, she could qualify for an annulment because whoever her husband is, he married her under false pretenses.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU, MOE! IF YOU WON'T GIVE ME MY TRUCK BACK, FINE! GO AHEAD AND KEEP IT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO LIVE WITH YOURSELF! I CAN'T MAKE YOU DO WHAT'S RIGHT! YOU CAN HAVE THE STUPID TRUCK!
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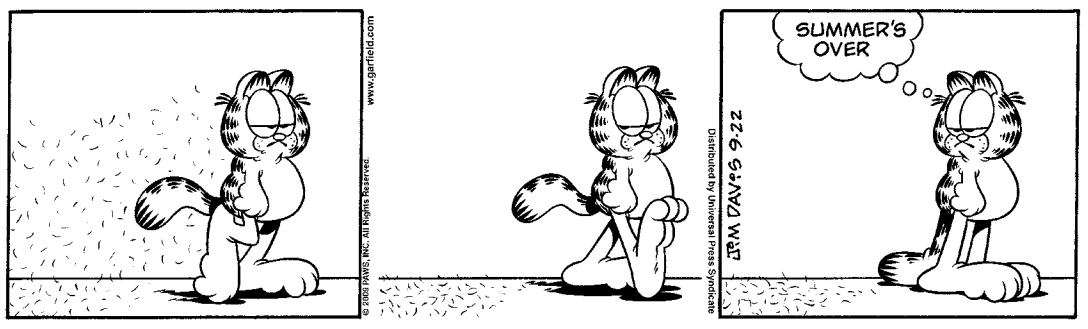
OK, thanks! Heh heh.
HEY, KID, IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA SWING, GET OFF AND LET SOMEONE ELSE ON, HUH?
9/22

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HONEY, I'M GOING WITH YOU TO THE JONAS BROTHERS CONCERT.
BUT YOU'RE TOO OLD.
YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD FOR ROCK AND ROLL! LOOK! I'VE GOT MY CONCERT CLOTHES LAID OUT.
I SEE PANTS AND A VEST. BUT WHERE'S THE SHIRT?
HONEY, NOTHING SAYS ROCK AND ROLL LIKE A VEST WITH NO SHIRT UNDERNEATH.
I'M GOING TO NEED SOME SORT OF MASK.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
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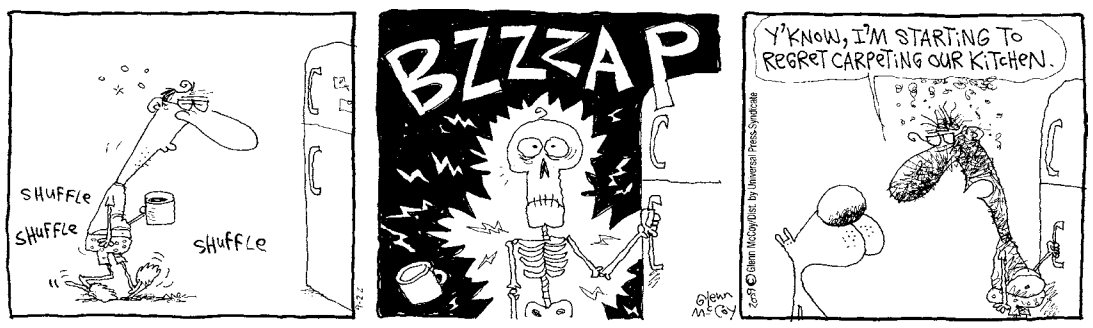
www.gocomics.com
9-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 In the thick of
5 Letterman's network
8 Mafia boss
12 Unadorned
13 Exist
14 Sahara-like
15 Physical
16 News-item info
18 Air out, as laundry
20 Accumulate
21 Sailor's assent
22 Put to work
23 Wood-shaving tool
26 Tests
30 A billion years
31 Scale member
32 Adversary
33 Exhausts
36 Stood
38 Possess
39 Wilde-beest
40 Quickly
43 Region of Australia
47 Make retroactive
49 Sad
50 Lo-cal
51 That guy's
52 Get a glimpse of
53 Formerly, formerly
54 Fool
55 Colonial seamstress

DOWN

1 Cain's victim
2 Long skirt
3 Ahmadinejad's land
4 Abase
5 Core group
6 Talk like 54-Across
7 Harden
8 Less nervous
9 Met melody
10 Cushion inserts
11 Honorific verses
17 Relaxed
19 Prepare Easter eggs
22 Link letters
23 Apiece
24 "Skip to My —"
25 Massachusetts cape
26 Speck
27 E.T.'s transport?
28 Ph. bk. data
29 Witness
31 Baltimore newspaper
34 Hole in the wall?
35 As yet unpaid
36 Pismire
37 Goodyear product
39 Surmise
40 Competent
41 Poker holding
42 Book after the Gospels
43 Elevator name
44 As well
45 Drink holders
46 Harpsichord lineup
48 "Eureka!"

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	O	D	E	■	R	F	D	■	A	D	A	M
A	K	I	N	■	E	A	R	■	S	A	L	E
L	A	M	B	■	E	X	A	C	T	I	O	N
E	Y	E	L	I	D	■	T	O	R	Q	U	E
■	■	■	O	O	P	S	■	Y	O	U	■	■
E	J	E	C	T	I	O	N	■	S	I	G	H
M	O	I	■	A	P	L	U	S	■	R	O	E
S	Y	N	C	■	E	V	I	C	T	I	O	N
■	■	S	I	P	■	E	S	A	U	■	■	■
S	A	T	R	A	P	■	A	M	T	R	A	K
E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	■	O	U	S	E
G	A	I	L	■	T	I	C	■	R	I	E	L
A	R	N	E	■	A	L	E	■	S	N	A	P

Yesterday's answer 9-22

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30			■	■	31			■	■	32		
33			34	35			■	36	37			
■	■	■	38			■	39			■	■	■
40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51			■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Felton, 22; Scott Baio, 48; Joan Jett, 51; Nick Cave, 52

Happy Birthday: Strive for perfection. Change is upon you and the more accepting you are, the faster you will succeed. Now is not the time to dwell on the past or fear moving forward. Action coupled with confidence is all it will take to jumpstart your goals. It's time to take control. Your numbers are 7, 11, 16, 28, 31, 34, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get serious about your spending habits and you can reduce your overhead. Impulse shopping has to stop and a set budget put into place. The changes you make now will lead to a better lifestyle in the long run. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Calling the shots is in your best interest and will help you set the standard for the future. Love is on the rise and a social event or activity will help you get closer to someone you respect and admire. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't give anyone a reason to pick on you. Do whatever you are responsible for quickly and efficiently. You can expect to be blamed for whatever goes wrong. Have your answers ready and don't leave room for error. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick close to home and make some alterations that will help you be more efficient. Romance is in the stars and should be scheduled in for the evening hours. A short business trip will open up new possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Avoid doing anything in excess. You have to cut back, not spend frivolously. Settle for what's available instead of striving for the impossible. Someone will condemn you if you are lazy or too impartial. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Once you have established your own position, you can accomplish things you have always wanted to do. Your efforts will be rewarded and your confidence boosted. Discuss your feelings with someone you care about. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may have to leave someone behind or search for a new group to collaborate with if things aren't moving fast enough. You will face opposition if you are too bold or pushy. Make your work or endeavor interesting and you won't have to ask for favors or help. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let someone else's wants and needs surpass your own or those of the people you feel are worthy of your help. You will find answers to the questions that have been confusing you for some time. Get involved in something unusual. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may not want to confront a situation you face but, by avoiding it, you will end up in a much worse position. Face your demons head on with facts and figures that cannot be denied. Set the record straight and move on. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get out and celebrate. You've got so much to be thankful for and, if you let people see your positive outlook, ideas and plans, you will be offered all the help you need. A partnership that is important to you needs a little nurturing. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a wait-and-see attitude, especially when dealing with friends, relatives or neighbors. By jumping to conclusions, you are likely to miss something beneficial. Listen to the advice given. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The more diverse you are, the more people you will meet to form partnerships. Don't be afraid to change your mind at the last minute. At the end of the day, you can feel good about where you are. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, smart and determined to do your best. You have passion, will-power and a need to excel. You are serious minded, contemplative and objective.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				6				
	7						2	
9			2		4			5
	2	9		7		1	3	
5			6	9	1			2
	1	6		8		9	5	
6			9		7			3
	3						1	
				3				

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	9	7	4	6	5	1	3
5	4	1	3	9	2	6	8	7
6	3	7	1	8	5	9	4	2
9	7	6	4	2	3	1	5	8
4	1	8	9	5	7	2	3	6
3	5	2	8	6	1	7	9	4
1	9	3	6	7	4	8	2	5
7	2	4	5	1	8	3	6	9
8	6	5	2	3	9	4	7	1

Difficulty Level ★ 9/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RETAIL THERAPY **Solution: 8 letters**

B	I	N	G	E	S	S	S	E	N	I	P	P	A	H
S	M	M	N	A	H	T	N	E	M	E	S	U	M	A
Y	M	E	I	S	T	O	R	E	S	S	G	O	T	T
O	E	R	H	P	Ⓒ	Ⓗ	Ⓘ	Ⓒ	E	E	N	S	N	S
T	D	C	T	U	O	P	E	I	A	E	A	A	C	C
N	I	H	O	R	N	P	R	R	Y	F	O	O	D	I
E	A	A	L	N	C	O	M	P	U	L	S	I	O	N
M	T	N	C	O	S	O	I	R	M	M	U	S	T	O
E	E	T	A	S	T	U	N	T	E	E	P	T	A	R
G	R	T	E	N	T	I	M	T	C	R	N	A	I	T
A	U	C	E	B	T	U	I	P	E	I	S	T	N	C
N	C	M	E	U	C	C	F	E	T	N	D	E	A	E
A	O	D	R	H	S	U	R	F	W	I	T	D	M	L
M	S	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	I	O	I	A	E
N	T	N	E	M	N	I	A	T	R	E	T	N	E	G

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Accessories, Addiction, Amusement, Binge, Chic, Clothing, Coat, Compulsion, Consumption, Content, Cosmetics, Cure, Debt, Electronics, Entertainment, Fast, Food, Furniture, Gather, Gear, Happiness, Hats, Immediate, Loan, Management, Mania, Mental, Merchant, Moment, Money, Much, Must, Owns, Rush, Selection, Spree, Spur, State, Stores, Stuff, Time, Toys

Yesterday s Answer: New Zealand

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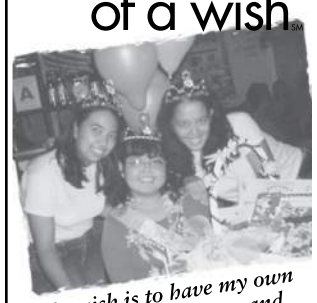

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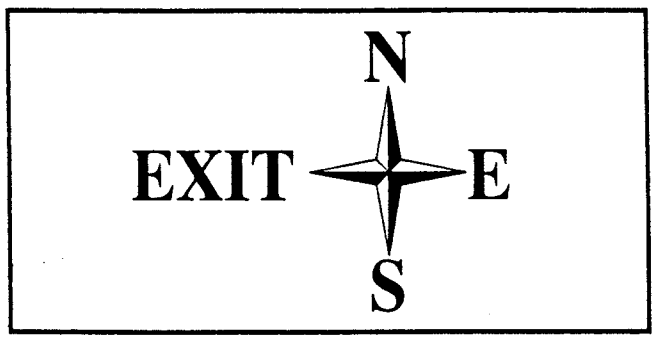
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately $300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from $42,000 to $45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Charles P. Reyes Jr., Acting Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). The application package may also be dropped at the Council's office. Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 9, 2009 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Jets beat Brady at home for 1st time

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP)—Mark Sanchez connected with Dustin Keller on a go-ahead touchdown as the New York Jets beat New England Patriots 16-9 on Sunday.

Tom Brady had a chance to tie it, getting the ball at the Patriots 10 with 1:48 left, but the Jets' defense stopped him as Dwight Lowery knocked away a pass to Joey Galloway on fourth down.

Brady was unable to engineer his 30th comeback victory as Sanchez took a knee twice to seal the first win for the Jets (2-0) over the Patriots (1-1) at home in nine games. Brady had beaten the Jets in 12 of the previous 14 games he had faced them overall.

Sanchez finished 14 of 22 for 163 yards and the touchdown to Keller, while Brady was 23 of 47 for 216 yards and an interception.

AP

New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez throws a pass during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game as New England Patriots linebacker Tully Banta-Cain (95) hits him during an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Giants 33, Cowboys 31

At Arlington, Texas, Lawrence Tynes kicked a 37-yard field goal as time expired, helping the New York Giants ruin the Dallas Cowboys' debut of their $1.15 billion stadium.

The Cowboys (1-1) went ahead 31-30 on a touchdown run by Felix Jones with 3:40 left. It was the seventh lead change of a game in which neither team led by more than six points and it didn't last.

Eli Manning drove New York 56 yards in seven plays. He got out of a first-and-20 on his 15 to start it and converted two third downs. Tynes actually made the winning kick twice; Dallas called time just before the first one was snapped, so he had to do it again.

New York (2-0) scored three touchdowns off interceptions of Tony Romo and won despite losing defensive end Justin Tuck to a shoulder injury and receiver Domenik Hixon to a sprained knee.

49ers 23, Seahawks 10

At San Francisco, Frank Gore had touchdown runs of 79 and 80 yards, and finished with 207 yards on 16 carries to lead the 49ers before leaving in the fourth quarter with a sprained right ankle.

He's the second player in NFL history to have two TD runs of 79 or more yards in the same game, joining Barry Sanders, who did it Oct. 12, 1997.

Gore posted just the third 200-yard rushing game in team history.

Ravens 31, Chargers 26

At San Diego, Ray Lewis met Darren Sproles head-on on fourth-and-2 in the closing seconds, spoiling a big monster afternoon by San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers

He threw for a career-high 436 yards and two touchdowns, completing 25 of 45 passes, but San Diego still needed a touchdown to win with 33 seconds left. With the ball at the Baltimore 15, Lewis came in unblocked and slammed Sproles to the ground to preserve the win.

Joe Flacco threw two TD passes for the Ravens (2-0), and Willis McGahee ran for two more.

Broncos 27, Browns 6

At Denver, Elvis Dumervil tied a franchise record with four sacks and linebacker Andra Davis had 10 tackles against his old team to lead the Broncos.

After beating Cincinnati last week on Brandon Stokley's 87-yard touchdown catch with 11 seconds left, Denver is 2-0 under new coach Josh McDaniels.

Denver quarterback Kyle Orton hit Jabar Gaffney with a 49-yard pass that led to Peyton Hillis' 2-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter. That broke open a 13-6 game and atoned for Hillis' lost fumble earlier. Correll Buckhalter then ran 45 yards for a sealing TD.

Bears 17, Steelers 14

At Chicago, Jay Cutler came through with a big pass to Devin Hester on third down, and Robbie Gould booted a 44-yard field goal with 15 seconds left to lift the Bears.

Cutler finished with 236 yards and two touchdowns.

Bengals 31, Packers 24

At Green Bay, the Packers ran out of time at the Cincinnati 10 yard line.

The Packers (1-1) kicked a late field goal and recovered an onside kick, and Aaron Rodgers marched them to the Bengals 10 before a false start call with two seconds left ended the game.

Saints 48, Eagles 22

At Philadelphia, Drew Brees tossed three touchdown passes as the Saints rolled past an Eagles team missing Donovan McNabb because of a cracked rib.

Brees had six TD passes last week as the Saints (2-0) routed Detroit 45-27. He picked up where he left off, completing 25 of 34 passes for 311 yards and one interception.

The Eagles should get a lift on offense next week when Michael Vick is expected to play his first regular-season game since Dec. 31, 2006.

Texans 34, Titans 31

At Nashville, Tennessee, Matt Schaub threw for 357 yards and four touchdowns, and Kris Brown kicked a 23-yard field goal in the closing minutes to ruin the Titans' home opener.

Brown kicked the go-ahead field goal with 2:55 left, leaving the defending AFC South champs with a chance— until Kerry Collins fumbled the ball away with 1:32 left. It ruined a career day from the Titans' Chris Johnson, who scored three touchdowns and ran for 197 yards.

Vikings 27, Lions 13

At Detroit, Brett Favre set an NFL record with his 271st straight start in the regular season, then threw two touchdown passes to help beat the Lions.

Adrian Peterson's 27-yard TD run midway through the third quarter gave Minnesota (2-0) its first lead. He finished with 92 yards rushing, handing Detroit (0-2) its 19th straight loss to tie the second-longest skid in NFL history.

Falcons 28, Panthers 20

At Atlanta, Matt Ryan threw three touchdown passes in the first half and Houston stopped a Jake Delhomme-led rally at the end, intercepting a pass at the Falcons 4 to preserve the win.

Ryan had a big first half, including another touchdown pass to new favorite receiver Tony Gonzalez. Jason Snelling and Roddy White also hauled in early TD throws.

Bills 33, Buccaneers 20

At Orchard Park, New York, Donte Whitner returned an interception 76 yards for a touchdown, and Terrell Owens scored on a 43-yard catch in his home debut for the Bills.

Whitner also made a key stop on fourth down less than a week after he was left crying in frustration when the Bills squandered an 11-point lead in a 25-24 loss at New England.

Buffalo (1-1) ended a five-game home losing streak. The Buccaneers have lost six straight.

Redskins 9, Rams 7

At Landover, Shaun Suisham kicked three field goals as the Redskins had four drives of more than 60 yards that faltered inside the 10.

Washington (1-1) put the game away with a 78-yard drive that ended with a failed fourth-and-1 from the 2 with less than 2 minutes to play, leaving the Rams (0-2) with too far to go.

Raiders 13, Chiefs 10

At Kansas City, Darren McFadden answered the Chiefs' go-ahead touchdown with just over a minute left, lifting the Raiders to the lackluster win.

Matt Cassel, making his Chiefs debut, hit Dwayne Bowe with a 29-yard scoring strike for a 10-6 lead with 2:38 left. But the Raiders (1-1), with barely 100 yards of offense to that point, drove 69 yards to hand KC its second straight loss under first-year head coach Todd Haley.

Cardinals 31, Jaguars 17

At Jacksonville, Florida, Kurt Warner completed his first 15 passes and broke the NFL's single-game record for completion percentage to lead the Cardinals.

With a big lead and the NFL record in hand, Warner headed to the bench late in the third quarter for the Cardinals (1-1). He finished 24 of 26 for 243 yards with two touchdowns.

Federer takes Swiss up to Davis Cup world group

LONDON (AP)—Roger Federer guided Switzerland into the Davis Cup world group on Sunday while Andy Murray was unable to stop Britain tumbling further down among the outsiders.

With Spain and the Czech Republic already assured of meeting in this year's final, Sunday's play in Murcia and the Croatian town of Porec didn't affect the overall result.

Spain eventually beat Israel 4-1 and the Czechs beat the Croats by the same score after Sunday's meaningless reverse singles. That meant the focus was more on teams trying to climb the ladder of men's team tennis.

With Switzerland facing Italy for a place in the world group, top-ranked Federer kept his focus through a two-hour rain delay in Genoa before completing a 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 victory which gave his side an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

"It was a tough weekend for us and I'm happy I could help Switzerland win," said Federer, whose bid for a sixth straight U.S. Open title ended with a loss in the final at New York earlier this month. "I was able to play very well.

"I have to go on holiday badly. I have a problem with my leg, I have a problem with my arm — everything is hurting."

Fabio Fognini of Italy beat Michael Lammer 7-5, 7-6 (4) in the final singles match to make the final score 3-2.

Murray had a problem with his left wrist although it was the lack of a strong playing partner against Poland that sent Britain down to the third tier of the competition—Europe/Africa Zone Group II—for the first time since 1996.

Murray won his match 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 against Polish teenager Jerzy Janowicz to make it 2-2 in Liverpool. But Poland won the match 3-2 after Michal Przysiezny outplayed Dan Evans 6-2, 6-1, 7-5 and that meant the Poles stay in Group 1, one level below the world group.

Belgium reached the world group by beating Ukraine 3-2, France outplayed the Netherlands 4-1 and India beat South Africa 4-1 and Sweden edged Romania 3-2.

Serbia was already sure of winning its place after leading Uzbekistan 3-0 after Saturday's doubles and wound up 5-0 winners after Sunday's singles.

Chile made it to the World Group after a dramatic 3-2 win over Austria, with 2004 Olympic champion Nicolas Massu clinching it for the hosts in a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (6) final match victory over Stefan Koubek that lasted 5 hours and 15 minutes.

Austria lost both the opening singles matches but Jurgen Melzer helped level it at 2-2 by winning the doubles with Julian Knowle and beating Paul Capdeville in the first of the reverse singles.

Ecuador secured its win over Brazil when Nicolas Lapentti beat Marcos Daniel 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 8-6 to give the visitors a 3-1 lead. Thomaz Bellucci won an inconsequential fifth match to reduce the margin to 3-2.

Fired ref on list for replacement training camp

NEW YORK (AP)—A referee who was previously fired by the NBA is among the group of replacements who have agreed to participate in training camp next week.

Michael Henderson is one of 44 who was sent an e-mail from the NBA's referees operations department on Friday. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the e-mail, which provides the replacements with details about the meetings, scheduled to begin Thursday in New York.

The NBA announced Friday that it would train replacement officials after failing to reach an agreement on a new contract with its referees union.

NBA spokesman Tim Frank said he could not confirm any names on the list because the league hadn't finalized it yet.

Henderson missed three games—the union called it a suspension—after he was called to league headquarters following an incorrect call in a game between Denver and the Lakers in February 2004. He mistakenly whistled a shot clock violation on a Denver shot that brushed the rim and was rebounded by a Nuggets player. The officials huddled and ruled it an inadvertent whistle, resulting in a jump ball. The Lakers won the tip and made the game-winning shot with 3.2 seconds left.

After the league publicly acknowledged the error, nearly all the officials responded the next night by wearing their jerseys inside-out with Henderson's No. 62 on the back.

The league would not say why Henderson was fired.

Tigers beat Twins, increase lead to 3 games

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Placido Polanco drove in three runs and Detroit's bullpen pitched four shutout innings as the Tigers avoided a three-game sweep with a 6-2 win over the Minnesota Twins on Sunday to increase their AL Central lead to three games.

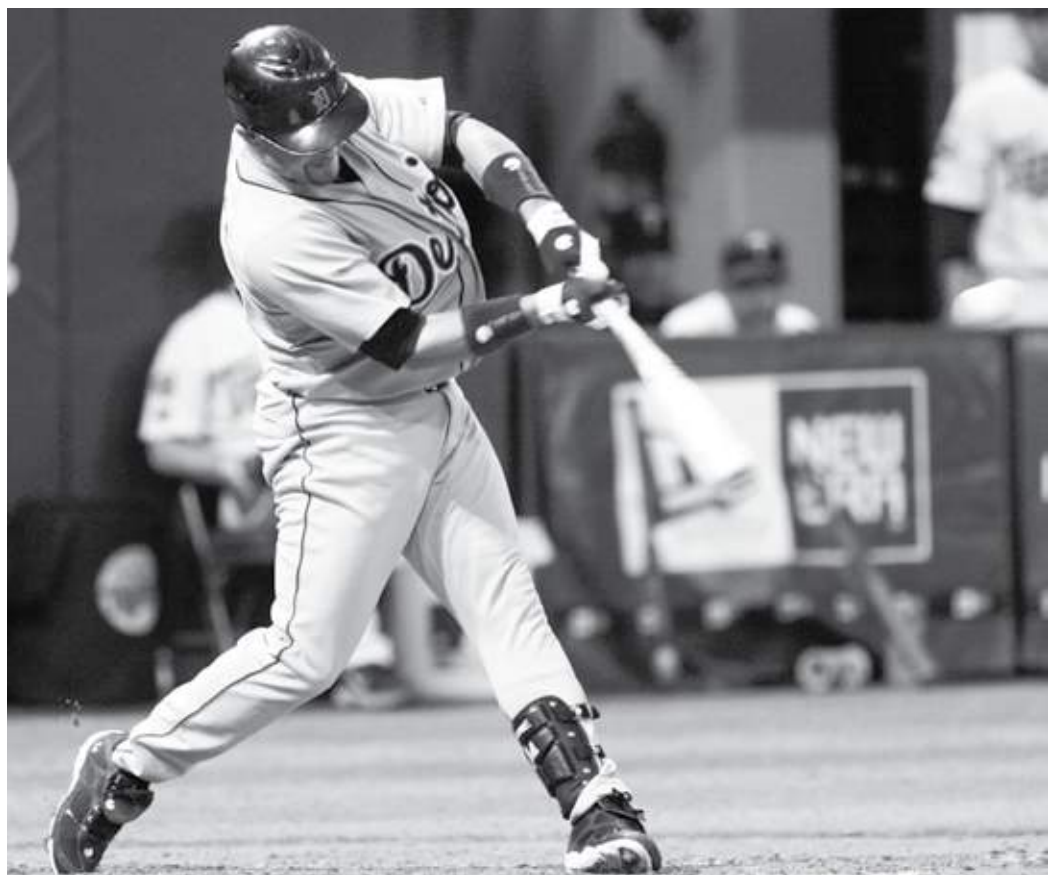
Ryan Raburn homered for slumping Detroit, which won for the second time in six games and fourth in 13.

Minnesota, which had won six straight, got two hits from Joe Mauer, who increased his batting average to a major league-best .374.

The teams meet again for four games beginning Sept. 28. It will wrap up a 10-game road trip for Minnesota, and begin a seven-game, final-week homestand for the Tigers, who have three games each in Cleveland and Chicago before going home.

In his fourth start after missing two months following elbow surgery, Tigers left-hander Nate Robertson (2-2) went deep in the count against many hitters but allowed just two earned runs in five innings.

Minnesota's Scott Baker (13-9) took the loss.



AP

Detroit Tigers' Placido Polanco hits a single off Minnesota Twins pitcher Carl Pavano during the third inning of a baseball game in Minneapolis, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.

Mariners 7, Yankees 1

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. homered and drove in four runs, putting the New York Yankees' playoff party on hold by leading the Mariners to a victory.

The loss prevented New York from clinching a spot in the postseason. The Yankees can secure their 14th playoff berth in 15 years with a victory at the Los Angeles Angels on Monday night or a Texas loss at Oakland.

The 39-year-old Griffey lined an RBI double in the first inning, then cracked a three-run homer in the second off starter Joba Chamberlain.

Seattle took two of three from the Yankees, who lead the AL East by five games over Boston with 12 to play. One more win—or a Rangers loss—assures New York of at least the wild card.

It was Griffey's first four-RBI game since July 10, 2008, with Cincinnati.

Red Sox 9, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Jason Bay and Jacoby Ellsbury both homered and drove in three runs to lead Daisuke Matsuzaka and the Red Sox past the Orioles.

Bay's 35th homer tied a career high, and the three RBIs gave him a career-best 110.

The Red Sox outscored Baltimore 23-9 in a three-game sweep. Boston won the season series 16-2, including the final eight games.

The victory, combined with the Texas Rangers' loss to Los Angeles, reduced Boston's magic number to win the AL wild card to seven. The Red Sox have an eight-game lead over the Rangers.

Jason Berken (5-12) took the loss.

Royals 2, White Sox 1

At Chicago, Robinson Tejeda won his third straight start for the Royals, who have won 10 of their last 13 games.

Since moving from the bullpen to the starting rotation on Sept. 4, Tejeda (4-1) is 3-0. He has allowed just two runs over 22 1-3 innings as a starter.

Tejeda allowed one run and three hits in six innings and retired the last seven batters he faced.

Royals closer Joakim Soria got five outs for his 26th save in 29 opportunities. He struck out Paul Konerko with runners on first and second in the eighth. After a walk to Alexei Ramirez to load the bases, Soria ended the White Sox scoring threat by getting Jermaine Dye to fly out.

Angels 10, Rangers 5

At Arlington, Texas, Gary Matthews Jr. snapped out of his September slump with a tiebreaking homer and a two-run single for the Angels.

Howie Kendrick drove in five runs with a two-run homer and a bases-loaded triple for the Angels (89-60), who won two of three in the series. Juan Rivera and Chone Figgins also homered.

Closing in on a third straight AL West title and fifth in six years, the Angels stretched their lead to 7 1/2 games over second-place Texas with 13 to play.

Texas, after scoring only four runs combined in its previous six games, took a 3-0 lead in the first off John Lackey (11-8), who had allowed only three earned runs in his previous four starts. But Los Angeles immediately responded with runs each time after the Rangers scored.

Derek Holland (7-12) took the loss.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, David Price allowed one run over 6 2-3 innings and Carl Crawford hit a two-run homer as the Rays beat the Blue Jays.

The Rays are 4-1 against Roy Halladay this year, and became the first team to beat the Toronto ace four times during the same season. Halladay (15-10) allowed two runs and 10 hits over seven innings. The right-hander has lost five of his last seven starts.

Toronto got a homer from Edwin Encarnacion. The Blue Jays are 4-14 against Tampa Bay this season.

Athletics 11, Indians 4

At Oakland, California, Adam Kennedy had three hits and drove in three runs to help the Athletics match their season-high seven-game win streak.

Ryan Sweeney added two RBIs as the A's improved to 12-2 in their last 14 games.

Kennedy had a run scoring single in the second, a double in the fourth and two-run home run in the sixth. It was his 11th homer of the season.

Travis Hafner, Trevor Crowe and Shin-Soo Choo each drove in runs for the Indians, who lost their eighth straight.

Dodgers 6, Giants 2

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a go-ahead homer off Tim Lincecum as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants to go 30 games over .500 for the first time in almost 24 years.

Randy Wolf (11-6) shrugged off a pair of home runs by lead-off hitter Andres Torres, allowing five hits in six-plus innings for the win. The left-hander is 6-0 with a 2.41 over his last eight starts.

Ronnie Belliard added a two-run single against Lincecum (14-6), the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner.

The Dodgers, trying to win consecutive NL West titles for the first time since 1977-78, reduced their target number to eight for clinching the division and four for securing a postseason berth for the third time in four years. Los Angeles is five games ahead of Colorado in the division race with 12 to play.

The Giants fell 4 1/2 games behind the Rockies for the NL wild card.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Jason Giambi homered for the second consecutive game and Ubaldo Jimenez outpitched Dan Haren to help Colorado tighten its grip on the NL wild card with a victory over Arizona.

Colorado expanded its wild-card lead on its three nearest pursuers because San Francisco, Florida and Atlanta all lost. The Rockies lead the Giants by 4Ω games, the Marlins by five and the Braves by 5 1/2.

Giambi, who had a three-run, pinch-hit homer in the ninth inning of Colorado's 10-4 victory Saturday night, added a two-run shot off Haren (14-9) in the eighth. That gives him 11 RBIs in his 12 games since joining the Rockies.

Jimenez (14-11) gave up a run and five hits through seven innings, striking out eight.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Jake Fox homered in the 11th inning and the Chicago Cubs benefited from a wide slide by Matt Holliday, beating St. Louis and keeping the Cardinals' magic number at four for clinching the NL Central.

An interference call on Holliday in the ninth inning cost the Cardinals a chance for a three-game sweep.

Fox hit a two-run homer in the 11th off Mitchell Boggs (2-3).

Esmailin Caridad (1-0) pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings for his first major league win. Carlos Marmol finished for his 14th save in 18 chances.

Phillies 4, Braves 2

At Atlanta, Philadelphia ended rookie Tommy Hanson's streak of 19 consecutive scoreless innings, damaging Atlanta's small wild-card hopes.

Brad Lidge pitched another shaky ninth inning but posted his 31st save in 41 chances. The NL East-leading Phillies took two of three in the series.

Philadelphia tagged Hanson (10-4) for four runs and seven hits, including four for extra bases, in five innings.

Tyler Walker (2-0) gave up one hit in two scoreless innings following the delay. Ryan Madson struck out the side in the eighth and Lidge took over with a 4-1 lead to begin the ninth.

Reds 8, Marlins 1

At Cincinnati, Corky Miller hit a rare home run to back Kip Wells' strong pitching as Cincinnati gained a split of its four-game series against Florida.

Miller's three-run shot and Joey Votto's two-run homer created a cushion for Wells (2-4), who went seven-plus innings. It was his longest outing since being acquired by the Reds in July.

Brewers 6, Astros 0

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit his 40th homer and Yovani Gallardo pitched five solid innings to help Milwaukee complete a sweep of Houston with its fifth straight victory.

The Astros lost their seventh consecutive game, matching their longest skid this season.

Fielder, who came in tied with Albert Pujols with a major league-best 127 RBIs, hit a solo shot in the first inning and set a club record in the fifth when he walked for the 100th time this season.

Corey Hart and Jody Gerut also homered for Milwaukee.

Gallardo (13-12) became the fourth Brewers pitcher with 200 strikeouts in a season and first since Ben Sheets had 264 in 2004.

Felipe Paulino (2-10) extended his career-worst losing streak to six games.

Mets 6, Nationals 2

At New York, John Maine pitched five shutout innings to earn his first win since May 31 for New York.

Daniel Murphy had two hits and two RBIs for the Mets, who won two of three in a series between the bottom two teams in the NL East. Carlos Beltran had an RBI single and Wilson Valdez added a two-run triple in the ninth.

Maine (6-5) allowed two singles and a walk in his second start since he was sidelined for more than three months with a sore right shoulder. Francisco Rodriguez earned his 33rd save.

Padres 4, Pirates 0

At Pittsburgh, Kevin Correia added to his impressive September, pitching seven strong innings for San Diego.

Correia (11-10) allowed six hits and did not walk a batter. He is 2-0 with a 1.67 ERA in four starts this month.

Heath Bell struck out the last two batters for his NL-leading 39th save in 44 opportunities. It was San Diego's sixth shutout this season. The Pirates have been blanked 15 times.

Oscar Salazar had three hits, including a run-scoring double, as the Padres improved to 30-20 since a 37-62 start. The Pirates lost for the 19th time in 22 games and need to win seven of their last 15 to avoid a 100-loss season.

Cubs suspend Milton Bradley for rest of season

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Milton Bradley's season is finished. Perhaps his days with the Chicago Cubs are, too.

The Cubs suspended their volatile outfielder for the rest of the season Sunday, one day after he criticized the team in a newspaper interview.

Bradley was disciplined for conduct detrimental to the team. General manager Jim Hendry said he decided to send Bradley home after learning of the player's remarks in the (Arlington Heights) Daily Herald of Illinois. Bradley, scratched from Saturday's lineup with a sore left knee, was quoted as saying "you understand why they haven't won in 100 years here."

Bradley has two years remaining on a three-year, $30 million contract that he signed as a free agent last offseason. Hendry said he doesn't know if the relationship can be salvaged.

"The last few days became too much for me to tolerate," Hendry said. "I just decided late last night that's what I was going to do, and I didn't give it a lot of thought what's going to transpire moving forward."

Cubs manager Lou Piniella agreed with Hendry's move.

"Jim made the decision and I support it," the manager said. "I really do."

Chicago signed the switch-hitting Bradley to provide balance in the lineup, but he struggled throughout his first season with Chicago, batting .257 with 12 homers and 40 RBIs. He was booed vigorously by home fans at Wrigley Field.

Black Stallions sink M-Destroyers to keep lead

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's Black Stallions defeated host D'Pirates M-Destroyers to keep the lead in the Master's Division of the 2009 Bud Light Saipan Electronics Darts Association Dart League held last week.

The Black Stallions scored big points in all of the five events last Sept. 16, including singles regular cricket, partners 501 double in/double out, singles shanghai, partners wild and crazy cricket, and singles 301 double in/double out to win the team solid bulls in/double out.

Bannered by Nestor Abing, Jun Olita, Noel Montalbo, Robert Valdez, and Jun Visaya, the team is towing the rest of the field with a win-loss record of 49-19.

Oleai Snipers is currently in second with a 41-27 mark, while M-Destroyers is third with a 40-28 card.

Three other teams in the division are VFW angry Dragons (28-40), Bud's Brothers M (27-1), and Oleai D'Companeros (19-49).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonny's "Black Stallions and Oleai D' Companeros players pose after their game in the Master League of the in the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association last week.

In the A-Division, Jonny's Black Stallions Jr. Kunejoz are still on top with a 32-19 record, while Bud's Fujin and Naked Fish Boyz are tied at 30-21.

The other teams are D' Pirates 101 Proofers (27-24), Bud's Enforcer (25-26), Jonny's Load Up (25-26), Bud's Brothers A (23-28), and Bud's No Name (12-39).

Last Sept. 15, D'Pirates CK Destroyers stormed to an 11-4 win over the Bud's Bring It on to further pad its 43-17 win-loss standing in the Tuesday B Division.

VFW Naughty Boyz is second at 34-26, D'Pirates B Destroyers is third (33-27), Jonny's Samurai fourth (23-27), and Bud's Bring it on is fifth (21-39).

Buds Brothers B, with 57 wins and 18 losses, paces the Thursday B Division. Bud's Bring it on 11 (46-29), Remington Naughty Boyz (44-31), Naked Man F.O.T.T.E. (43-32), Buds B-Bwibwis Barracuda (41-34), USSP No Fear (33-42), VFW Dutty Gunz (32-43), The Flair Salut Balut (30-45), Snicker N'Tuna Lights Out (26-49), and The Flair Get Sum (23-52) make up the rest of the teams in the division.

In the C Kingfisher Division, Jonny's Wasabe remains in the lead with a 46-14 mark, followed by USSP Young Gunz (42-18), Bar Gaia Gaiana (32-28), VFW One Shot (30-30), Remington ADH (30-30), and BYE (0-60).

Buds Bwibwis C takes the top in the C Chichirika Division with a 36-24 record.

Pirates Sang & the Gang, Buds Darty Deeds Dart Deux, and Buds C Bwibwis Barracuda are tied at second, all sporting 33-27 cards. The rest of the teams are Snickers Lucky Shot (32-28) and USSP Bomsoro (13-47).

In the Ladies League, Jonny's.com tops the list with its 24-21 mark. VFW Yakau (19-11), Tijuana B-52 Shooters (19-26), Snickers Mama Snipers (15-15), and Buds Bwibwis Mermaid (13-17) make up the rest of the division.

PILCOWA cage meeting tonight

The Pilipino Contract Workers Association Basketball League will hold an organizational meeting tonight at the pavilion across J.P. Center in Garapan.

PILCOWA sports coordinator Fernando "Pando" Muleta said teams interested in taking part in the basketball tournament should send a representative to the meeting set at 6:30pm.

Muleta said the agenda of the meeting will revolve around the league's ground rules, team rosters, uniforms, entrance fee, and league format.

The PILCOWA caging will have two categories—an open division and a masters division. The league will be played at the J.P. Center basketball court.

For more information about the PILCOWA caging, call Muleta at 285-9783.

Diamond Auto Care ruled the inaugural staging of the PILCOWA caging, which saw seven teams participate.

Sonny Ranola canned a side jumper in the last four seconds of the second overtime to lift Diamond to a 101-99 win over a youthful MIGS team.

Aon Insurance, Century Insurance, C&R Distributors, Olivos, and host Pacific Trading Co. also took part in the 2008 edition of the PILCOWA caging. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

WABOL

From Page 28

week is rest day in the Cook Islands, much like what Wabol and White experienced in the 2003 staging of the Pacific Games in Suva, Fiji.

"Today, Sunday, is a day of rest in the Cook Islands. All the stores are closed, and there are no official activities other than a meeting of sports ministers from Pacific Islands countries and territories," said White. "Tomorrow, Monday, our athletes will be practicing in the morning. The opening ceremony will be held in the late afternoon."

Team CNMI is billeted at the Avarua School, where they share accommodations with athletes from Niue, American Samoa, Tokelau, and Vanuatu.

"Rarotonga is a beautiful place, and the people are friendly and enthusiastic about the Games. Jess, Joshua, and I are looking forward to the coming competition," said White.

The CNMI's two-man delegation joined athletes from 22 island nations in the opening ceremony late afternoon yesterday.

Aside from the CNMI, other island nations participating in the Mini Games, set from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2, are Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Guam, American Samoa, Samoa, Norfolk Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Wallis and Fatuna, Fiji, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, and host Cook Islands.

The 22 island nations will compete in 15 sports, namely athletics, boxing, golf, lawn bowls, netball, rugby league sevens, rugby sevens, sailing, squash, table tennis, tennis, touch rugby, triathlon, va'a, and weightlifting.

CASTRO

From Page 28

strong with a 225 to come away with 207.5 pinfall average.

Simon Manacop tried his best to catch up with Castro's total, but the best he could do was a 795 last Monday. His 198.75 pinfall average was built around rolls of 166, 190, 234, and 205.

Raymond Zapanta and Kitz Barja tied for third place with identical totals of 786. Zapanta had a rollercoaster stint last Sept. 13, rolling 173, 235, 202, and 176.

Kitz Barja, for his part, also bowled in Day 1 of the tourney and followed Zapanta's route with his four-game series of 226, 191, 212, and 157.

Castro and Manacop took home cash prizes of $90 and $40, respectively, while Zapanta and Barja split the $25 second runner-up purse.

It was the second King of the Lanes plum for Castro, who also won the August tilt last month.

Not content at sitting on her laurels, Williams even improved on the 703 pinfalls she registered last Sept. 13 by rolling a 711 last Sunday.

The veteran kegler was consistent from the get-go, tattooing 174 in the first game, 180 in the second, before closing out with an 187 and 170 to finish with an average of 177.75.

Lyn Santos came in second with her four-game total of 672 pinfalls (168 average), while Gigi Zapanta was third with her 662 total and 165.5 average.

It was the second Queen of the Lanes tiara for Williams, who earned $70 for her win. Santos and Zapanta pocketed $35 and $25, respectively. Williams also won in the January edition of the tourney.

In the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes last Sept. 13, Zapanta's youngest son, Raphael, kept his winning streak in the youth competition after knocking down 844 pinfalls.

It was the ninth win in as many tries for the Saipan Southern High School student this year.

VETERAN

From Page 28

as well as serve as a coach.

Mesa said the World Masters Games is a great opportunity for him to learn new techniques in officiating and coaching basketball. He added that the event also gives him the unique opportunity to rub elbows with former players of the National Basketball Association.

Upon his return, he will conduct a series of basketball clinics around Saipan to pass on whatever knowledge he learned in the World Masters Games.

"I want to give back to the youth the more than 20 years of excellent experience I've had with the sport of basketball. I want to speak and share those values and show to them how I was able to earn those values," he said.

Mesa, who founded the Guam Masters Basketball Association in 1990, was a player-coach for Team Guam in the 1994 World Masters Games at Brisbane.

He then served as head coach of the same team in 1998 in the World Masters Games in Portland, Oregon. He has also participated in the 2002 World Masters Games in Melbourne, Australia, and in the 2005 World Masters Games in Edmonton, Canada.

The World Masters Games have been held every four years since they began in Toronto, Canada in 1985. Australians have a strong masters sport presence and the 2009 event will be the third time that the World Masters Games have been staged in Australia after Brisbane in 1994 and Melbourne in 2002.

Open to people of all abilities and most ages, the World Masters Games are the world's largest multi-sport event, attracting twice as many competitors than the Olympic Games. A significant, fundamental difference between the World Masters Games and the Olympic Games is that World Masters Games are open to people of all abilities rather than just elite athletes, with the emphasis on participation. To compete at the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games, people only need to satisfy their sport's minimum age, which ranges from 25 to 35, depending on the sport.

The Sydney 2009 World Masters Games organizers expect 25,000 people from upwards of 100 countries will compete across 28 sports at more than 70 venues throughout the city.

A volunteer workforce of approximately 6,000 people will assist the organizing committee in delivering the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games, which will run from Oct. 10 to 18.

TEAM

From Page 28

Tegita, Bobbie Norita-Techur. Kneeling, Dolorina Panuelo, Erlinda Naputi, Claire Sablan and Melissa Benjamin.

Heavy rains and all, Team 670 Sakau players said they enjoyed their trip to Guam a lot. They didn't only went home with championship trophy on hand, they also returned to Saipan with fond memories of the event, made more special by the excellent job the Pohnpei Association of Guam did in organizing the tournament.

"The goodwill tournament gave us an opportunity to visit our sister-island of Guam and rekindle relationships with family members and friends that we have not seen for quite a while," said Team 670 Sakau spokesperson Claire Sablan. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	95	55	.633	_
Boston	89	59	.601	5
Tampa Bay	77	73	.513	18
Toronto	66	83	.443	28 1/2
Baltimore	60	89	.403	34 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	79	70	.530	_
Minnesota	76	73	.510	3
Chicago	73	77	.487	6 1/2
Cleveland	61	88	.409	18
Kansas City	61	88	.409	18

West Division

Los Angeles	89	60	.597	_
Texas	81	67	.547	7Ω
Seattle	78	72	.520	11Ω
Oakland	71	78	.477	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	87	61	.588	_
Florida	80	70	.533	8
Atlanta	79	70	.530	8Ω
New York	65	85	.433	23
Washington	51	98	.342	36Ω

Central Division

St. Louis	87	63	.580	_
Chicago	76	72	.514	10
Milwaukee	74	75	.497	12Ω
Houston	70	79	.470	16Ω
Cincinnati	69	81	.460	18
Pittsburgh	56	91	.381	29Ω

West Division

Los Angeles	90	60	.600	_
Colorado	85	65	.567	5
San Francisco	80	69	.537	9Ω
San Diego	68	82	.453	22
Arizona	65	85	.433	25

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Angels 10, Texas 5
Boston 9, Baltimore 3
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 1
Kansas City 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Detroit 6, Minnesota 2
Oakland 11, Cleveland 4
Seattle 7, N.Y. Yankees 1
Cincinnati 8, Florida 1
N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 2
Philadelphia 4, Atlanta 2
San Diego 4, Pittsburgh 0
Milwaukee 6, Houston 0
Colorado 5, Arizona 1
L.A. Dodgers 6, San Francisco 2
Chicago Cubs 6, St. Louis 3, 11 innings

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1.000	40	16
New England	1	1	0	.500	34	40
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	57	45
Miami	0	1	0	.000	7	19

South

Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	14	12
Houston	1	1	0	.500	41	55
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	29	45
Tennessee	0	2	0	.000	41	47

North

Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	69	50
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	27	27
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	38	36
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	26	61

West

Denver	2	0	0	1.000	39	13
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	50	51
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	34	51

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	56	48
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	65	54
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	60	58
Washington	1	1	0	.500	26	30

South

Atlanta	2	0	0	1.000	47	27
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	93	49
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	30	66
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	41	67

North

Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	61	33
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	45	46
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	32	35
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	40	72

West

San Francisco	2	0	0	1.000	43	26
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	38	23
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	47	37
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	7	37

Yesterday's Games

Houston 34, Tennessee 31
Minnesota 27, Detroit 13
Atlanta 28, Carolina 20
Washington 9, St. Louis 7
N.Y. Jets 16, New England 9
Oakland 13, Kansas City 10
Cincinnati 31, Green Bay 24
New Orleans 48, Philadelphia 22
Arizona 31, Jacksonville 17
Buffalo 33, Tampa Bay 20
San Francisco 23, Seattle 10
Chicago 17, Pittsburgh 14
Baltimore 31, San Diego 26
Denver 27, Cleveland 6
N.Y. Giants 33, Dallas 31

By The Associated Press

2009 IT&E Aqua Walk

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

Marianas Walking Association secretary Mario Espeleta, left, and Dr. Jack Hardy pose with 2009 Ms. Teen CNMI.

Participants of the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk pose for a group shot before the event on the beach at the back of the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Susupe last Sept. 12.

Marianas Walking Association members listen as MWA secretary Mario Espeleta explains the course of the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk.

Jhun Tenorio, right, was the youngest participant of the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk at five years of age.

Participants start the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk as MWA regular Efren Garcia, right, helps tidy up the beach.

Marianas Walking Association vice president Yoichi Matsumura, left, was among the first participants to complete the event.

Participants head toward the buoy in the middle of the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk.

Marlon Estigoy, left, and Lito Evangelista pose after taking part in the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk.

Marianas Walking Association secretary Mario Espeleta explains the course of the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk.

The low tide last Sept. 12 made the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk even more enjoyable.

Tigers beat Twins, increase lead to 3 games

Placido Polanco drove in three runs and Detroit's bullpen pitched four shutout innings as the Tigers avoided a three-game sweep with a 6-2 win over the Minnesota Twins. **25**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jets beat Brady at home for 1st time

Mark Sanchez connected with Dustin Keller on a go-ahead touchdown as the New York Jets beat New England Patriots 16-9 on Sunday. **24**

Wabol, Manglona hit practice rounds

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI's two-man delegation to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games wasted no time preparing for their events as golf's Jess Wabol and triathlon's Joshua Manglona hit the practice rounds soon after arriving in Rarotonga.

This, according to Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president and CNMI delegation chef de mission Michael A. White, who e-mailed *Saipan Tribune* and said all three of them arrived in the Cook Islands last Friday morning.

"Jess Wabol has gotten two rounds of golf in, so far, and is becoming familiar with the course. Joshua has connected with the organizers of the triathlon, and has been practicing hard over the past two days," said White.

Aside from Wabol's practice rounds in the links of the Rarotonga Golf Course and Manglona's training sessions, all three CNMI delegates to the quadrennial event also found time to attend a number of official functions.

"Yesterday (Saturday), we had our flag-raising ceremony, in which the CNMI flag was raised in front of the national indoor stadium along with the flags of other participating countries. There were welcoming speeches from the mayor of the games village, Tom Marsters, and the chairman of the organizing committee, Sir Geoffrey Henry," said White.

Sunday was a slow day for Team CNMI as the start of the

See WABOL on Page 26

Wabol

Manglona

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alex Castro, right, and Emi Williams topped the Budweiser September King and Queen of the Lanes that finally concluded last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center.

Castro, Williams top Sept. roll-off

By MARK RABAGO
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Alex Castro and Emi Williams were crowned Budweiser September King and Queen of the Lanes after topping the tournament that finally concluded last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center, six days after super typhoon Choi-won put a halt to the competition.

It was close to a weeklong wait for Castro as none of the players that saw action in the restart last Sept. 20 was able to eclipse the 830 pins he toppled last Sept. 13.

Castro was smoking hot in Day 1 of the King of the Lanes, knocking down 227 pins in his first game and followed that up with a 203. He tapered a bit with a pedestrian 175 in his third game before finishing

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Team 670 Sakau wins Pohnpei Slowpitch tourney

Team 670 Sakau went undefeated in the Pohnpei Slowpitch Softball Tournament held in Guam last Sept. 12 and 13.

The female clouters from the CNMI literally didn't allow hell or high water to rain down on their parade, as they defeated Team Guam, 12-10, in six and a half innings to top the competition.

The team opened up its title campaign with a 12-6 blow out over Guam Sakau then followed that up with a 2-0 shutout win against What Are You Staring At?

Battling heavy rains and the muddy field, Team 670 Sakau then completed their title run after eking out the two-run victory against Team Guam.

Team 670 Sakau is composed of Cucci Pangelinan, Tani Masga, Rose Taman, Jovie Omar, Semirina Simram, Jennifer

See TEAM on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team 670 Sakau players pose after reigning supreme in the recent Pohnpei Slowpitch Softball Tournament held in Guam. Standing from left, Cucci Pangelinan, Tani Masga, Rose Taman, Jovie Omar, Semirina Simram, Jennifer Tegita, and Bobbie Norita-Techur. Kneeling from left, Dolorina Panuelo, Erlinda Naputi, Claire Sablan, and Melissa Benjamin.

Veteran ref off to World Masters Games

By MARK RABAGO
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Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands referee Arnold Mesa will take part in the 2009 World Masters Games in Sydney, Australia.

The 54-year-old Rota native will be joining Team Guam in the event that will not only have him officiate games, but also have him see action as a player on the basketball court

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